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Skem man, 23, pleads guilty to plotting to murder Rosie Cooper

A 23-year-old man from Skelmersdale pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday (Tuesday) to plotting to murder West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper.

Last summer, Jack Renshaw bought a Gladius machete to kill Ms Cooper.

On the first day of a trial, expected to last five weeks, Renshaw, an alleged member of the banned far-right group National Action, also pleaded guilty to preparing acts of terrorism and making a threat to kill police officer Victoria Henderson.

National Action is a neo-Nazi group which was banned by the Home Secretary after it backed the murder of MP Jo Cox in 2016.

The jury in the case have been directed by the judge, Mr Justice Jay, to deliver a guilty verdict on the first two charges Renshaw faces.

Also on trial are Matthew Hankinson, 24, from Newton-le-Willows; Andrew Clarke, 33, from Prescot; Christopher Lythgoe, 32, and Michal Trubini, 35, both from Warrington; and Garron Helm, 24, from Seaforth.

All deny membership of National Action.

Lythgoe also denies a charge that he gave Renshaw permission to murder the MP on behalf of National Action on July 1, 2017.

Prosecutor, Duncan Atkinson QC, said at the start of the case:

MP Rosie Cooper.

"This case concerns these defendants and their support for, involvement in and membership of the proscribed racist neo-Nazi group National Action."

The prosecutor continued to say that Renshaw wanted to carry out an act which was "politically and racially motivated murder" in the name of National Action. He went on to claim Renshaw had the backing of Lythgoe.

According to Mr Atkinson, National Action have since 2013 carried out a "campaign of virulent anti-Semitic and homophobic propaganda." He added the group recruit youths through violent images and "hate-filled language."

The prosecutor said the defendants carried on being members of National Action after it was banned.

The case continues.

CHARITY'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL!

Report by **Henry James**

AN award-winning West Lancs-based charity which employs young people with disabilities to recycle donated mobility equipment will be forced to close in August unless £50,000 can be found to secure its future.

Brighter Future Workshop, which is based at Greenhey Place in Skelmersdale, opened for business in 2005 and since then has won a host of awards.

These include a Queen's Award for Sustainable Development; Best Social Enterprise England; Best Social Enterprise UK; Best Social Firm in Europe; Deloitte Innovation Pioneers; and The Big Society Award.

The charity was also honoured in October 2012 by a visit from The Countess of Wessex.

Peter Cousins MBE, chairman of Brighter Future Workshop, said: "We are fighting to keep Brighter Future going - it's too good to lose - and we are looking for any help we can get to ensure we save it.

"We want to encourage those people that we set out to help, to use our charity to purchase their mobility needs.

"By doing this they will be supporting the training of young people with physical or learning disabilities within our workshop.

"There are potentially 28,000 people with disabilities or long-term needs in West Lancs. In buying from Brighter Future you will enable us to connect with and support these young disabled people to have better lives.

"Local businesses could help by providing corporate sponsorship to help with our overheads; or individuals or groups could sponsor a trainee or a technician to train the trainees at Brighter Future. This help would be greatly received and could save our charity.

"We earn 92% of our costs and if we could find £50k we could guarantee our survival."

The charity provides a wide range of mobility scooters, wheelchairs and disability aids.

Since its foundation Brighter Future has trained more than 350 young disabled people during more than 120,000 training hours.

And its trainees have helped to refurbish more than 35,000 pieces of mobility equipment to help the disabled.

Happier times . . .the Countess of Wessex's visit to the Brighter Future Workshop in 2012

Continued inside

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Cupcake Day date for civic couple

THE Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubert, will attend a National Alzheimer's Cupcake Day event at Abbeywood Lodge Care Home in County Road, Ormskirk on Thursday, June 14 from 2pm.

Cloud hangs over shop jobs after Poundworld enters administration

Report by **Tom Martin**

STAFF at the two Poundworld stores in West Lancashire face an uncertain future after the company went into administration.

More than 5,000 jobs nationally are now at risk after the discount retailer announced on Monday (June 11) that it has taken a decision to appoint administrators for its 355 shops, including those at the Hattersley Centre Retail Park in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale's Concourse Shopping Centre.

It was reported last week that talks had taken place with a potential buyer in the form of R Capital, but this collapsed, meaning that the chain felt it had no other option but to go into administration.

A Poundworld statement reads: "Like many high street retailers, Poundworld has suffered from high product cost inflation, decreasing footfall, weaker consumer confidence and an increasingly competitive discount retail market."

Administrators Deloitte stress the stores will continue to trade as normal with no redundancies at this time.

Poundworld, which has two stores in West Lancashire, has gone into administration

Urgent talks

Clare Boardman, joint administrator at Deloitte, said: "The retail trading environment in the UK remains extremely challenging and Poundworld has been seeking to address this through a restructure of its business. Unfortunately, this has not been possible."

It has been reported that Poundworld has been losing money for the past two years and losses for the financial year 2016-17 stood at £17.1million.

Investment company TPG, which bought a majority stake in Poundworld in 2015, also controls the restaurant chain Prezzo whose landlords and creditors agreed a restructuring last month.

Meanwhile, shopworkers' trade union Usdaw are seeking urgent talks with the administrators.

Dave Gill, Usdaw National Officer, said: "Poundworld staff are deeply concerned about their jobs after the company failed to secure a rescue package. We are seeking urgent talks with the administrators to represent the best interest of our members and urge them to find a buyer for the company.

"Regrettably Poundworld do not recognise Usdaw and they have not been keeping us informed of developments. We are hopeful that the administrators will engage with us to help save jobs.

"We welcome Deloitte's initial approach for Poundworld to continue to trade while a buyer for all or part of the business is sought and that there are no redundancies or store closures at this time.

"Usdaw is providing the support and advice our members require at this very difficult time and we expect the administrators to ensure all staff are treated with dignity and are fully consulted."

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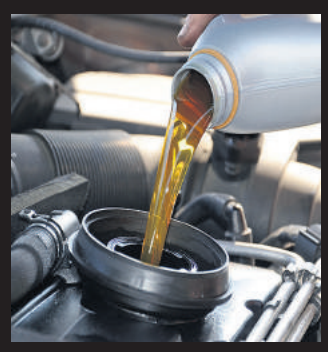

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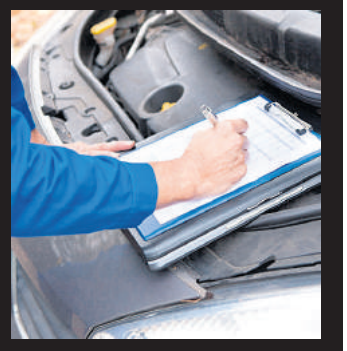

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Arsonists target Coronation Park

WEST Lancs Council is to step up surveillance of Coronation Park, Ormskirk after the fire service was called out to deal with a deliberate fire since for the ninth time since last May.

The latest incident involved a swing in the play area while others have involved rubbish fires and the burning of trees, bushes and grass cuttings.

Fire service crew manager, Graeme Spencer, said: "We are working alongside the council's rangers and the police to identify the perpetrators and hopefully speak to them about the serious impact and consequences that lighting fires can have, not only to the environment and the Fire Service but also to themselves.

"We suspect that the youths are of school age and are contacting the schools with a view to sending all parents and guardians an email.

"With the dry conditions of late, it does not take long for a fire to get out of control and quite possibly affect property and other structures."

A spokesperson for West Lancs Council said: "The council has CCTV cameras covering the park which have captured good images of the latest incident and the police are using these images to progress with their enquiries.

"The council's parks and countryside rangers are working with the Fire Service and colleagues in the council's CCTV suite and will also have a more visible presence in the park.

"Potential vandals should be warned that if they are caught they could face prosecution."

More strikes on Northern Rail

WORKERS at Northern Rail are to carry out three further days of strike action next week as part of the long-running dispute over the role of guards.

Members of the RMT union will walk out for 24 hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, June 19, 21 and 23.

The company has been under fire in recent weeks because of daily delays and cancellations to rail services following the introduction of new timetables.

Northern Rail states on its website that "on weekday strikes, the majority of available trains typically operate between 7am and 7pm, with many last trains leaving before 7pm.

"During these hours, the overall number of trains running are significantly reduced, with around 40 per cent of the usual number of services in operation.

"These trains, and any replacement buses we run, are usually very busy. Therefore we ask our customers to carefully consider whether their journey is necessary."

Passengers are advised to check the Northern rail website for possible changes to services.

Brighter Future Workshop facing fight for survival

From Page 1

Peter continued: "It is very sad for our charity and staff, but mostly for the many young disabled people who will lose their placements in our workshop. These trainees help to recycle mobility equipment.

"If West Lancs loses Brighter Future it will be a serious blow to people with disabilities.

"Our training programmes have helped these disabled and disadvantaged people whom others might have considered untrainable, to become motivated trainees, enabling them to help themselves to remove barriers and play a fuller role in life and society, positively enhancing their lives."

Escalating

The charity has had no outside funding for three years but despite that has still managed to cover 92% of its total costs.

However, as a result of rising costs the remaining 8% that they need to become sustainable equates to more than £100,000.

Peter added: "Costs are escalating while the prices of mobility equipment has been slashed by mainstream providers.

"It is becoming impossible for us to operate at the moment as our sales are in decline so, unless we can find extra funding, we will have no alternative but to close the charity while we are still solvent."

Council scraps blue bin charge and puts back changeover deadline

Tory leader says planned motion forced cabinet's hand

Report by **Kenny Parker**

FOLLOWING the recent furore over the introduction of changes to the blue bin recycling scheme in West Lancs, the borough council has put back the deadline for bringing them in and said the £25 charge will be scrapped.

The controversial change requiring residents to change using blue bins for recycling glass, plastic bottles and cans has now been delayed until October. It was due to take effect from Monday, July 16.

The Conservative group on West Lancs Council had already announced it was going to table a motion at next month's full council meeting calling on the Labour-controlled authority to postpone the introduction of the new blue bin scheme and also to scrap the charge for those who don't have one and refunding those residents who had already paid.

However, the latest development in the ongoing saga, has seen the Labour leadership admit that the policy was flawed and commit to making amendments.

Both the Conservatives and the independent Our West Lancashire group had said the charge was unfair as residents had been given the choice of keeping their blue box or having a free bin when the blue bin scheme was originally introduced in 2013 under the Conservative administration.

Councillor David Westley

Conservative leader, Councillor David Westley, who represents Aughton and Downholland ward, said: "The way Labour allowed the recent changes to be slipped in under delegated authority without any debate was underhand and downright unfair.

"The Conservatives have always seen refuse and recycling collections as essential front-line services that are funded by council tax and not by the imposition of additional charges."

But council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, claimed the blue bin charge was the result of policies they had inherited from the previous Conservative administration and he said the council would introduce amendments at the next meeting.

He said: "I can only apologise for the length of time it has taken to sort out but we are sorting it out and we are listening to people's views. We will strive in future when changes are made wherever in the council that we will fully investigate all scenarios to make sure this sort of thing doesn't happen again."

However, Cllr. Westley said the Conservative's policy to hand out blue bins for free had not changed.

He added: "Yes, there is a mess at present due to the Labour administration's muddled thinking and lack of control i.e. letting decisions be taken under delegated authority without proper consideration of the consequence.

"I knew there was a great deal of discontent within the Labour group and that my motion would force the cabinet to address the problem. I will be leaving my motion on the agenda more as a back-stop or in case Labour renege on their commitment to sort the problem."

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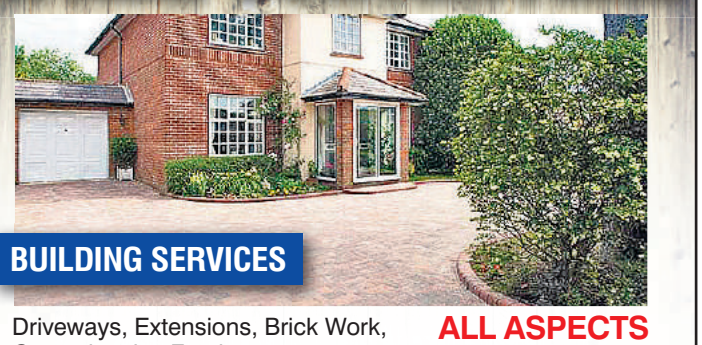

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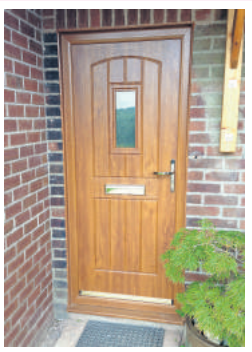

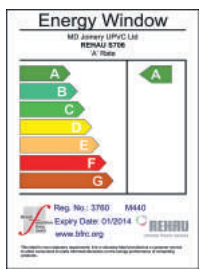

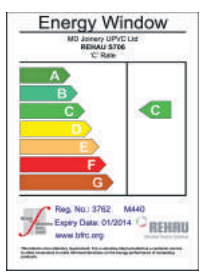

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Cancer information service mobile unit is coming to Ormskirk Market

A FREE cancer information and support service is coming to West Lancashire tomorrow (Thursday, June 14) with the message 'be safe in the sun this summer.

Macmillan Cancer Support's Mobile Information and Support Service will be visiting Ormskirk Market from 9am to 4pm with cancer information specialists on hand to answer any questions. The team encourages anyone with worries relating to cancer to stop by.

Now that summer is here, the team will also be providing specialist information about sun safety and skin cancer, although they will NOT be able to perform skin checks.

There are two main types of skin cancer, non melanoma and melanoma.

Macmillan Cancer Support's Mobile Information and Support Service will be visiting Ormskirk Market on Thursday, June 14 with specialists on hand to answer any questions relating to cancer

Around 136,000 cases of non melanoma skin cancer are diagnosed in the UK each year which makes it the most common type of cancer by far. It is unlikely to spread, very treatable and the earlier it is diagnosed the easier it is to treat.

Melanoma is the fifth most common cancer in the UK with around 15,400 cases diagnosed each year. It is more common in people with fairer or freckley skin. Around 27% of new cases occur in people aged 75 and over. Unlike other cancer types, malignant melanoma also occurs relatively often in people of younger ages.

Debbie Smith, from the mobile information team, said: "Most skin cancers are caused by exposure to the sun. This may be long-term exposure, or short periods of intense sun exposure and burning. Using sunbeds can also increase your risk. Our team will be on hand to answer questions about sun safety and for any other cancer-related queries."

For further information about Macmillan's mobile information service, and planned visits, go to www.macmillan.org.uk/mobileinfo

If you are unable to visit the unit but have questions about cancer, visit www.macmillan.org.uk or call Macmillan free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm).

You can find out about Macmillan services near you at: www.macmillan.org.uk/inyourarea.

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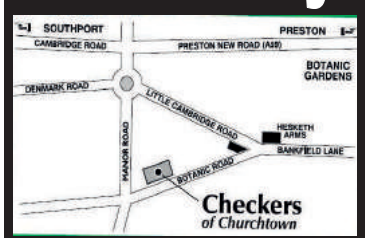

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CCG accused of 'playing games with diabetics' lives'

Report by **Kenny Parker**

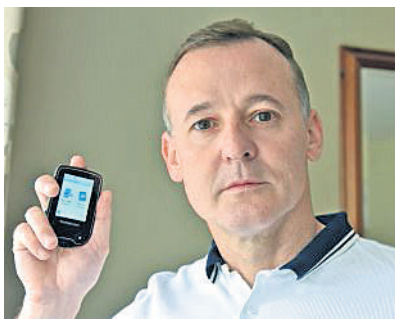
A DIABETIC has accused the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) of 'playing games with lives' by seeking public consultation on the use of a new device - which it's claimed will help people control the condition - rather than simply authorising its use.

And Steve Ashton, from Burscough, who has had type 1 diabetes for 33 years, also claimed the commissioners were trying to influence the consultation by inferring that the device, which requires a new sensor every two weeks, is 'high cost.'

The CCG is currently holding a public consultation on the new blood glucose reading device, marketed as FreeStyle Libre, which includes a sensor attached to the arm and continually monitors blood sugar levels. This does away with the finger-pricking process and, it's claimed, also helps diabetics take more control of their condition and their overall health.

It has been available on the NHS since November 1 of last year after being approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), but its use is subject to local CCG approval.

Elizabeth Perry from Aughton contacted the Champion to encourage others to support use of the device saying that it dramatically improved the quality of her life and would ultimately save the NHS money by improving people's health.



Steve Ashton with his FreeStyle Libre blood sugar monitor.

That view is shared by Steve Ashton, who says that the CCG should just have approved the device.

He said: "This consultation exercise means, even if it passes, it is unlikely to be available in West Lancs this year. This feels like a very short-sighted and cynical delaying tactic to stall its introduction.

"Even the key question on the CCG public consultation is biased by using the phrase 'high cost'. This wording is unacceptable and not objective and potentially influences the result. The device is cost-neutral if a diabetic currently tests more than eight times a day, as I and many other diabetics do."

A spokesperson for West Lancs CCG said they have followed a recommendation by the Lancashire Medicines Management Group which is currently not to recommend the use of FreeStyle Libre as the device is currently under a review process.

They are however, collaborating on the development of a policy for the use of the device.

The CCG added that the policy on which people are being asked to give their views includes an explanation of cost effectiveness. It says that, while in most cases the use of glucose monitoring devices to improve blood glucose control would not represent a cost-effective use of NHS resources, there are circumstances under which they are cost-effective.

The consultation can be viewed on NHS West Lancashire CCG's website, along with two other draft policies; the supply and funding of insulin pumps for patients with diabetes; and the management of back pain with spinal injections.

Opportunities to discuss these policies face-to-face can also be arranged by emailing mlcsu.haveyoursay@nhs.net or calling 01772 214244.

Comments on the policies should be submitted by no later than Friday, June 29.

The volunteers who keep the grounds of Mawdesley Cricket Club won a Best Kept Ground Award in 2017 - an example of the club's links with the community .

Cricket club's Royal award

MAWDESLEY Cricket Club has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the equivalent of the MBE for voluntary organisations.

The award, created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's coronation, recognises excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community.

The Independent Assessment Committee, chaired by Sir Martyn Lewis, recommended that the club should be a recipient of the award because of the work it does for the community.

The club in School Lane reaches out to all sections of the community - not just by running a senior cricket team, but by also offering opportunities for youngsters, the disabled and most recently women, to take up the sport.

It also hosts and supports a variety of community events each year raising funds for local health charities, local churches and other charitable organisations.

In recognition of the achievement, club representatives were invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace and the club will be formally presented with the award by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire at a ceremony at County Hall in Preston in July.

Anti-fracking campaigners hold meeting for concerned residents

MEMBERS of the Frack Free Burscough group arranged a meeting with a group of concerned residents at the Stanley Club about the shale gas industry.

Information about fracking was on display and talks by guest speakers were followed by a question-and-answer session.

Speakers included John Wilkinson who informed the meeting about Frack Free Formby's plans to oppose a planning application by energy company Aurora to mine for shale gas at Altcar Moss.

Other speakers included Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for planning, Gail Hodson, borough councillor for Ashurst, and Helen Rimmer from environmental group Friends of the Earth.

Meanwhile, Burscough West Councillor Cynthia Dereli, said that the fight against fracking must also include a commitment to using energy from renewable sources.

She said: "If we can commit as a community to renewable energy we are truly helping to stop the fracking industry in its tracks and save the planet for the next generation."

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Police commissioner calls for Government rethink on funding

New figures show county's force faces biggest shortfall in Home Office process

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has called again for the Government to review its decision-making as new figures show that Lancashire police are the biggest losers in a Home Office funding process.

The Home Office reserves a pot from the national policing budget to meet unexpected policing costs.

Data published this week showed that Lancashire's bid to cover the costs of policing the fracking site on Preston New Road, Little Plumpton faced the biggest shortfall.

The £1.4 million grant awarded left the police force to find the difference of £5.4 million from existing budgets. The next largest shortfall was £1.6 million for policing the Champions League final.

Clive Grunshaw said: "This is another hammer blow for people in Lancashire showing that the Government doesn't care about the impact of its decisions on our communities. In other parts of the country we see areas receiving a greater level of support.

"This decision was made in Westminster but residents in Lancashire are being left to foot the bill.

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw

'Unfair'

"Other external decisions, such as where to hold political conferences, international meetings or European cup finals have seen a much higher proportion of the costs covered, if not all of them.

"The Home Secretary Sajid Javid made the original decision to allow fracking in Lancashire.

"He now has a chance to ensure that our police aren't left short-changed as a result of their work keeping people safe at the site.

"I hope he now listens to Lancashire's pleas to review this unfair funding decision."

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Concerns over proposed changes to 375 bus route

MP slams lack of consultation with residents

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Proposed changes to Arriva's 375 bus route have caused concerns for residents.

ROSIE Cooper has criticised Arriva's decision to re-route the 375 bus service away from Grimshaw Lane in Ormskirk.

The West Lancs MP says many residents, including those from the Whittle Drive and Scott Estate areas, have contacted her with concerns over the changes.

She said that although Arriva consulted on the proposed changes with three local county councillors, they failed to communicate with her, borough councillors or residents.

And she has called on Arriva to carry out further consultation and research before arriving at a final decision on whether changes are needed or not.

She said: "Understandably, residents in the area are concerned at the extra walking distance to their nearest service, particularly many elderly passengers who take the 375 to Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

"Upon raising this issue with Arriva, because residents were told by the bus driver that the bus won't be running any more, I find out that their consultation process involved a total of one email to three county councillors - none of whom live in the area affected!

"Arriva need to re-think the changes and consult with the passengers and local residents first before going ahead with any final decisions."

Arriva has been contacted for comment.

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Alert to drivers after second deer-spotting incident in borough

Motorists warned of risk of collisions

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Dashcam footage of the deer running across the road in front of motorist Chris Ward.

MOTORISTS are being urged to be on their guard following another daytime sighting of deer in Skelmersdale.

Technical consultant Chris Ward was driving to work in Newburgh from his home in Skelmersdale at about 2pm on Wednesday, June 6 when he saw two deer run across Whalleys Road in Ashurst.

One of the deer then ran back across the road and Chris was able to capture it on his dashboard camera.

He said: "When I saw the two deer bounding across the road I slowed down. Then one of them ran back across my path."

Previously a deer caused a stir in downtown Skem on an early Sunday afternoon in May when it was spotted running through the estate at Yewdale.

And Highways England and The Deer Initiative joined forces to warn motorists about the risk of deer-vehicle collisions, as well as advice on what to do if you are involved in one, or see an injured deer on the roadside.

If you see an injured deer on the roadside or hit a deer while driving, you should pull over at the next safe place and call the police, who will deal with road safety issues.

If you hit a deer while driving, your priorities are to keep yourself and anyone with you safe. Park your car in the safest place with hazard lights on and consider using it to also warn other road users. Then call an ambulance, if human injuries warrant it, and the police.

It's best not to approach live deer as doing so may cause them to run across traffic causing another accident.

Senior principle environmental advisor at Highways England, Tony Sangwine, said: "Safety is our top priority and we want drivers to complete their journeys safely and without incident. We work closely with The Deer Initiative to warn motorists about the risks caused by deer, when they suddenly appear on the road."

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Martin Mere news

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Volunteer your time and meet new people at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is looking for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to come and join our welcome and visitor activity teams

The welcome team meets and greets all of our visitors, giving out day planners and centre information, as well as doing the otter talk and feed, white stork talk and feed and the flamingo experience. Belinda Dargie, Office Manager, says: "The welcome team is a real team atmosphere and you can make some great friends on the day you volunteer – you just have to love talking to people and learning new things."

Visitor activities include helping out in our craft room, helping families do pond dipping and bug hunts as well as pumpkin carving and Sail to Santa later in the year. Learning Manager, Chris Whitehead, says: "By helping out on activities like these, you are really helping to get children engaged with nature and getting them to enjoy being outdoors – it can make a real difference. No experience is necessary, you just need to enjoy meeting new people."

Chris continues: "We now have over 180 volunteers at Martin Mere. Nationally, we have over 900 volunteers, we quite simply couldn't function without them. Volunteering gives opportunities, allowing students to stand out on their university applications, whilst our mature volunteers can learn new skills and meet new friends. In the past we have had volunteers as old as 89, which shows it is never too late to come and volunteer at Martin Mere."

For all vacancies, search WWT volunteering online and complete the online application.

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 4.30pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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The volunteers, proudly displaying their certificates, are pictured with the Mayor and Mayoress and officials of the West Lancs CVS.

Civic presentation to salute borough's dedicated volunteers

A GROUP of dedicated volunteers have been honoured for their efforts at a civic presentation ceremony.

To mark Volunteer Week (June 1-7) a total of 26 people from across the borough were awarded 100 and 200-hour certificates and Outstanding Contribution to Volunteering awards for their work with West Lancs CVS (Council for Voluntary Service).

The event was hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, in the Mayor's Chamber followed by refreshments served in the Mayor's Parlour.

Representatives from voluntary, community and faith sector organisations in West Lancashire then praised impact of the work done by volunteers.

Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancs CVS along with Janice Howard, volunteering officer, thanked West Lancs Borough Council for hosting the ceremony and said having the Mayor and Mayoress presenting the awards to the volunteers had helped to make the evening "really special".

They added: "Thanks to the organisations who attended the evening, along with their volunteers and for saying wonderful things about the impact of volunteering in our borough.

"We would also like to thank Cath Thompson from the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group for attending on the night.

"And last, but certainly not least, thanks to all of the volunteers - not only those who attended on the night but all of the volunteers across West Lancashire - who work tirelessly, giving up their free time to try and change the lives of others.

"Well done to all of you and a huge well done to the volunteers who were presented with awards."

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Sisters' homemade birthday card gets Royal stamp of approval!

WHEN young sisters Sophie and Hannah Malloy decided to send a birthday card to the Queen, they didn't really expect a reply.

But that's exactly what happened and the thoughtful youngsters from Ormskirk were over the moon after they got a letter in the post on behalf of Her Majesty thanking them for the gesture!

Sophie, four, and seven-year-old Hannah, wanted to wish the Queen a happy 92nd birthday so they sent a homemade card to Buckingham Palace.

And when they hadn't heard anything more than a month later they had almost forgotten about the card - until a response finally arrived from Annabel Whitehead, lady-in-waiting to the Queen.

The letter stated: "The Queen wishes me to thank you for you handmade card and the kind message you sent.

"In another year of special events for The Royal Family, The Queen is most grateful for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did at this time."

Mum, Gina, told the Champion: "As soon as we saw the letter we knew where it was from because it had a really posh envelope and stamp!

"It basically thanked them for the birthday card and said how the Queen was grateful for their thoughtfulness which was really nice for them to read."

A delighted Sophie and Hannah with the letter from Buckingham Palace

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Lucie's dancing feat!

Youngster moves step closer to national talent prize and earns runner-up spot in prestigious awards

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A YOUNG dancer from Ormskirk has shown she knows all the right moves after winning a place in the finals of a national talent competition and finishing runner-up in a prestigious awards scheme.

Thirteen-year-old Lucie Deakin impressed judges in the area heats of TeenStar, the UK's biggest search for teenage and pre-teen singing and dance acts.

She will now go to London for the national fnal in July where she will compete in front of judges from the music, media and theatre industry for the chance to win prizes including a promotional video and photo shoot and an extensive publicity package including TV appearances.

The St Bede's Catholic High School pupil also finished runner-up in the senior section of the prestigious Janet Cram Awards, organised by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD), one of the world's leading dance examination boards.

Proud mum, Viv, who watched Lucie compete in the awards finals, also in London, said: "It was nerve-racking for me but it was all worth it in the end."

A member of the Hamilton Dance School in Maghull since the age of four, Lucie has already appeared on stage at Southport Little Theatre, the Echo Arena, the Liverpool Empire and the Epstein Theatre.

And although she is clearly not fazed by the big occasions, Viv says she always manages to keep her feet on the ground - but not literally, of course!

Lucie's range of dance includes tap, ballet, modern dance, lyrical and hip hop and her success is just reward for a lot of hard work, says Viv.

"She practices four nights a week and during the days on Saturdays and always gives it 110% effort."

Dancing teen Lucie Deakin

And Anneliese Hamilton-Stevens, who runs Hamilton School of Dance, said: "Myself and all the teachers of the school are incredibly proud of Lucie. The ISTD Janet Cram Awards are open to the best dancers in the country with almost 300 young dancers entering the senior section throughout the regional heats. To have been awarded runner-up at the final is just a wonderful achievement and is testament to the commitment to dance that Lucie has shown from an early age.

"Her hard work in class combined with the commitment from her teachers to help nurture her obvious talent has really started to pay off now. We are all delighted for her and are excited to see if her success continues at the TeenStar final in July."

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MP joins call for halt to 'rip-off' overdraft fees

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has joined forces with the Consumers' Association, Which? and more than 80 fellow Parliamentarians in signing a letter asking for the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to bring an end to what they called 'rip-off' overdraft fees.

Ms Cooper is concerned that residents in West Lancashire might still be paying excessive fees on unarranged overdrafts, some of which may still cost more than seven times more than a payday loan, according to new research by Which?

Despite scrutiny from the regulator, she feels not enough has been done to protect consumers from these sky-high fees.

She said: "Overdraft fees can be the first step in spiralling into a vicious debt circle which can lead people to resort to credit cards, payday lenders and worse. We need our banks to be responsible and support customers to climb out of debt not increase it."

Which? first raised the alarm over the fees in 2016 but new research shows the issue still exists.

The consumer champion compared the cost of borrowing £100 for 30 days in an unarranged overdraft across 16 high street banks with borrowing the same amount for the same length of time through a payday loan. Overall, 13 of the banks investigated charged more than a payday loan company, and considerably more so in several cases.

Rosie Cooper MP

The FCA previously capped payday loan charges, meaning that the cost of a loan in this scenario would be £24.

Among the findings of the Which? research were the following:

- Santander was almost 7.5 times higher and £155 more expensive, charging its customers a massive £179 over 30 days.
- TSB was more than 6.5 times more costly, charging £160.
- HSBC and First Direct were more than six times higher, at £150.
- RBS and Natwest are £144 and six times higher.

Now, Which? has written a letter to the FCA, along with the 84 MPs from all the main parties, demanding the authority takes urgent action to end this unfair practice by restricting unarranged overdraft charges to the same level as arranged overdrafts.

Gareth Shaw, Which? money expert, said: "It's alarming that the majority of banks are still allowed to charge more than payday loan firms through these rip-off overdraft fees. These extortionate fees can cost thousands of pounds a year, hitting those who can afford it the least.

"The regulator cannot drag its heels any longer. We must see urgent action to restrict these charges, bringing them into line with arranged overdraft fees to finally end this unfair practice."

Since Which? first called for banks to lower their unarranged overdraft fees, the Lloyds Banking Group has acted on its calls and scrapped unarranged overdraft fees, meaning it now has the lowest charges of investigated banks at £19.80 cheaper than a payday loan at just £4.20.

Meanwhile, Santander has also committed to Which?'s calls and will remove fees on unarranged overdrafts for its paid current accounts from July this year - although this will not apply to other Santander accounts.

Which? and the Parliamentarians are now calling for other banks to urgently follow suit.

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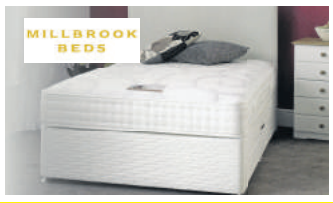

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Public to have their say on reducing speed limits at accident black spots

LANCASHIRE County Council is to propose a reduction to the speed limit on sections of the A59 County Road and High Lane in Ormskirk following a number of serious accidents in recent years, including two fatalities.

A public consultation, due to begin in the next month, will propose a reduction from 40mph to 30mph. The public will also be asked about a similar proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A570 Southport Road which intersects County Road at the Five Ways junction.

Councillor Nikki Hennessy is urging residents to take part in public consultations about reducing speed limits on County Road/High Lane and Southport Road in Ormskirk.

In April a motorcyclist was killed on County Road near to the junction with Yew Tree Road, following a collision with a Honda Civic.

That followed another fatal collision at the nearby junction with Green Lane in December.

There have been numerous crashes at the Fiveways junction over the year.

Now Labour's county council representative for Ormskirk, Councillor Nikki Hennessy is urging local residents to make sure they participate in the consultation.

Speaking about the stretch of County Road and High Lane, she said: "What has been happening along this road has been tragic. But thanks to the local community we have been able to highlight their concerns with the county council and police to reduce the risks along the road.

"Although speed is not the only factor, reducing speeds will give drivers more time to react and evidence shows that it can hopefully reduce the extent of injuries.

"I would urge members of the public to respond to this consultation and help us to help you."

And with regards to the Five Ways junction and Southport Road, Cllr. Hennessy, who is also a West Lancs borough councillor for Knowsley Ward, added: "We consulted local people on the traffic flow of the junction 18 months ago and reducing the speed of vehicles around the junction, I believe, can only be a good thing. We will, however, remain vigilant and any steps to make Ormskirk a safer place will be considered."

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council said: "We met with the police in January following an incident in December to consider all the available evidence about safety on County Road, including investigations of previous incidents, our own recent monitoring.

"In consideration of this we now feel it is appropriate to consider reducing the speed limit to 30mph on sections of County Road/High Lane (A59) and Southport Road (A570) north of the Five Ways junction, and will be holding a public consultation on this proposal shortly."

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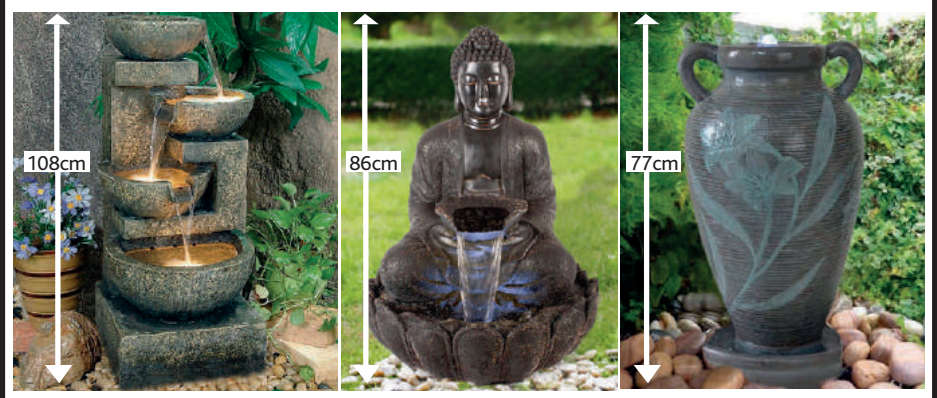

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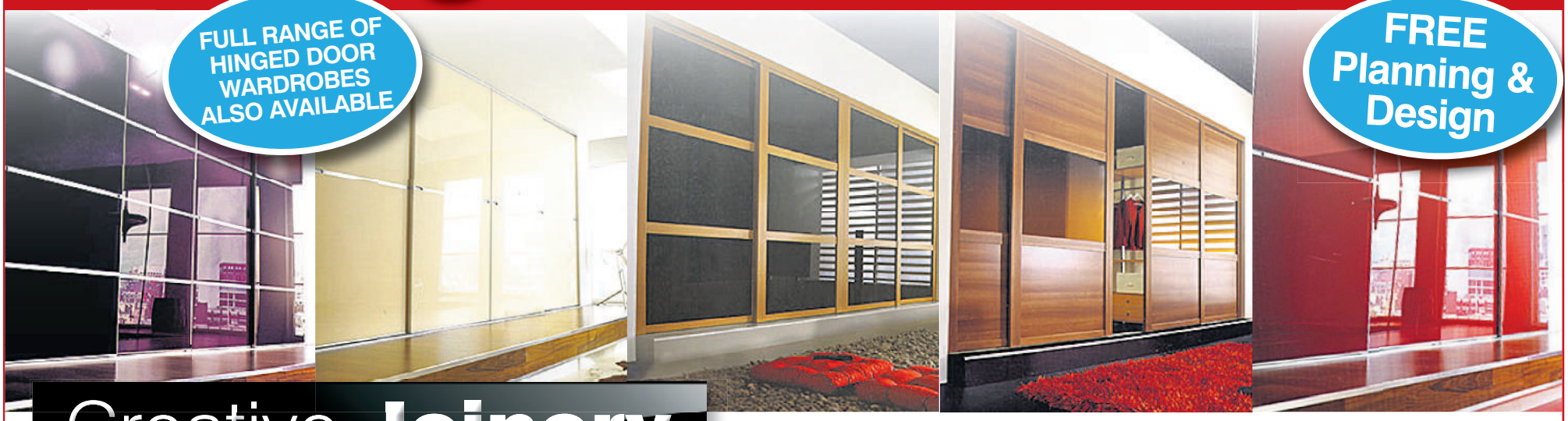

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
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Buying a first-class ticket doesn't get you first-class fare on today's trains

I AGREE with Jim Sharpe (One Man & His Dog, Champion, May 30) about the sad decline of railway catering.

Thirty years ago I was a regular on that Liverpool Street to Norwich line. From their tiny, rocking galley, the restaurant car crew would cook and serve a proper hot meal.

Passengers going to Colchester got three courses, drinks and coffee, all within the 45-minute journey. They didn't even need a first-class ticket, just to pay a tenner or so for the meal.

I found this so impressive that I pitched the idea of a TV documentary series to the BBC, featuring the restaurant car crew and various other professional travellers I had met.

"No," said the BBC, "nobody wants to watch that sort of thing." Now the TV schedules are stuffed with series about airlines, airports, railways, stations, cruise liners etc.

But today you need a first-class ticket to get at-seat catering. And what do you get? On an early evening Virgin train to Glasgow last week, 'dinner' was a small rice salad in a cardboard box, a packet of crisps, a banana and a biscuit.

Even though I had a really cheap, cut-price ticket, I did not think this was much of a bargain. What should have been a treat was just a disappointment.

Adrian Tayler, Skelmersdale

They should keep the guards but get rid of the drivers!

I WHOLLY agree with the rail staff demands that guards should not be removed from trains and support the strikes to see this doesn't happen.

They do an essential job in aiding passengers and deterring bad behaviour.

Given the current technology and the progress in driver-less car development we should actually be getting rid of the drivers.

Trains run on tracks not roads so no steering is required and the argument that people wouldn't travel on such transport is spurious. Anyone wanting to hack into a train system could override the current driver system as just easily as a driver-less system.

Keep the guards, get rid of the drivers.

Roderick Green,
Back Lane, Burscough

Rail chaos could cost me my job

EVERYONE knows, as it's national news, the trains are currently a nightmare. I have written to my MP a number of times to help spread the message at Parliament. No response.

I leave work at 5pm and hours later am still waiting for my train from Manchester to Burscough, thanks to 'Northern Failure'!

Oh, by the way, I have a wife and two kids waiting for me that I can't see because of public transport, or the lack of it. So don't blame me for driving!

If I don't lose my job it will be amazing.

M.W., by email

Residents have a duty to attend CCG meetings

RON Cooper (Champion Letters, June 6) made very valid points expressing concerns about the private contracting and subcontracting of Virgin Care since the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) gave them the contract to take over Hants Lane, the walk-in centres and all out-of-hours GP services.

The only reason these services are still acting so well for our community is that original NHS staff who know what they are doing are still employed there.

I have written before and raised questions of what happens if their contract is not renewed, as happened in Surrey when Virgin Care then sued the authority for a significant sum.

That is NOT about caring.

This is a company that appears genuinely to care and support the NHS, but as Mr Cooper says, it is based in an offshore tax haven and the end result is to cater for its shareholders not to care for the sick and needy and support our wonderful NHS born in 1948 for all our citizens.

Mr Cooper is quite right. It is up to residents to attend these CCG meetings.

Judy Ingman, Town Green

PICTURE of the week

Roadside seats gave villagers a chance enjoy an excellent view of the traditional 'Walking Day' procession in Tarleton last Saturday. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Skem's unsightly grass verges are a disgrace and an accident waiting to happen

YET another let-down for Skelmersdale.

The state and condition of the grass areas within the town are an utter disgrace.

In the Ashurst area alone grass and weeds are 3ft high in places. Not only is this an unsightly mess, it makes it very difficult to see clearly when approaching roundabouts.

The council needs to get its act together. How are the people of the town supposed to have a pride in where they live when the council cannot be bothered.

This is a very dangerous situation re: the safety to the public.

I contacted the council more than a week ago and I'm still waiting for a response.

Paul Barker, Skelmersdale

This sorry cyclist should have known better . . .

ON Saturday night (June 9) I was cycling towards St Helens Road in a hurry so when the traffic lights turned red, I shot across regardless.

This forced a motorist going past the green light to screech to a halt and he or she angrily blew the horn, thus saving both of us from a serious accident.

What I did was stupid, dangerous and illegal. I can hardly believe what I did. I have no excuse. I'm a man of mature age and I've always been a staunch advocate of cyclists' rights.

I just hope that the driver reads this and may accept my true apologies for my behaviour.

Let this be a warning that even 'sensible' and 'experienced' road users can do idiotic things on the spur of the moment. I can hopefully say that I will never do such a thing again. I've learned my lesson.

Apologetic cyclist, details supplied

Blue boxes are no longer fit for purpose

ONE only has to look back to January to see that gale force winds are not just of interest to those listening to the shipping forecast.

And as we get stronger winds coming inland more frequently, one only has to look along Wigan Road, Ormskirk during the winter months!

Wigan Road is in Councillor Adrian Owens' ward by the way, and on collection day you can see the blue plastic boxes and their contents, of which a hell of a lot are pizza boxes, being blown all over the place. Most of the blue boxes lost their lids ages ago,

And this, of course, is happening all over the borough.

So whatever Cllr. Owens charges about the charges, I would suggest that the plastic boxes themselves are no longer fit for purpose and a sturdy bin is the sensible answer.

And let's not forget people are getting more and more cardboard boxes nowadays from their Amazon deliveries etc.

It's good to see recycling focusing the mind.

H. Pennington, by email

Specsavers' staff couldn't have been more helpful and understanding

I WISH to send a very big thank-you and commendation to Specsavers in Ormskirk for their fantastic approach and patience when my daughter attended recently.

She needed to get her eyes tested and after seeing an article in the Champion about this particular branch raising staff awareness around autism through training, I decided to take her there.

My daughter is terrified of any kind of medical setting and of new experiences. However the staff could not have been more understanding, patient and helpful when dealing with us. Nothing was too much trouble and they helped to alleviate the fear my daughter was experiencing.

What may seem like a simple procedure to most can be very overwhelming and distressing to someone with autism. I wish more shops and services would recognise that it only takes a few adjustments, patience and an understanding approach to make all the difference.

Thank you and well done Specsavers Ormskirk!

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Free courses available at county's libraries

LANCASHIRE County Council has announced that a range of free courses on everything from computer coding and digital skills, to history and languages, are available for adults and families at the county's libraries.

Both short 'taster' sessions and longer courses are on offer for anyone looking to pick up a new skill or develop their knowledge.

They are being made available thanks to close collaboration between the county council's library service and Lancashire Adult Learning, an independent organisation which aims to provide learning opportunities for all adults across the region.

Courses for adults include digital skills, art, skills for work, health and safety, languages, healthy eating, wellbeing, history and heritage.

Other courses that are offered for families include Lego robotics, coding and pre-school play and learn.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "We've got a great range of free courses available for those looking to take a different career path, expand their skillset, or simply pick up a new hobby or activity to enjoy with their family.

"Our courses are aimed at meeting all sorts of needs, whether you want to pick up a few key phrases for a holiday, study for a future or current job, or get involved in a new social activity. That is why we are offering a varied programme of courses across the Lancashire community to cater to all tastes and help adults and families achieve their goals.

"I'd urge people to check out what's available and take the opportunity to enrol on a free course."

Membership of Lancashire libraries is free and there are no age restrictions. For more information, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 6703. To find out more about Lancashire Adult Learning and the courses available visit http://bit.ly/lancslearning

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RRP	BALANCE TO FINANCE	36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	APR%	GFV	TOTAL
£12,000	£10,000	£177.71	4.9%	£4,696.25	£11,093.81

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RRP	BALANCE TO FINANCE	36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	APR%	GFV	TOTAL
£15,370	£13,370	£262.51	4.9%	£5,312.50	£14,762.86

STONIC 2

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RRP	BALANCE TO FINANCE	36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	APR%	GFV	TOTAL
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The Consolette Choir's fundraising debut performance at St Mark's Church, Scarisbrick

Choir's debut concert raises £600 for church

MEMBERS of a recently-formed choir have raised £600 for a West Lancs church with their first public performance.

The Consolette Choir, which meets every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Burscough's Stanley Club, was set up in September last year by pianist and music teacher, Joanne Fairclough.

They held their first public performance at St Mark's Church, Scarisbrick which included renditions of a variety of popular and folk songs with money from ticket sales to go towards a new annexe for the church.

The concert also featured a version of the Beatles song, Carry That Weight, specially adapted for the choir by Joanne who was delighted with the amount raised. She said: "We all really enjoyed the evening and are now looking forward to our next performance."

New members would be welcome to join the choir. Anyone requiring information can contact Joanne on 07791 461 739.

Charity bags £4,000 funding boost

WEST Lancs-based charity Sporting Challenge has received £4,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme following a public vote.

Funding raised by the carrier bag charge at Tesco stores is used for grants to improve local parks, hold community events, support sports groups and more.

Under the scheme customers at Tesco scores who buy a carrier bag receive a token and are then invited to place it into one of three containers representing local good causes with the one receiving the most tokens being awarded the funds.

Sporting Challenge, which provides sporting activities for people with learning disabilities in West Lancashire, was the winner at the Tesco store in Burscough earlier this year.

The charity's activities organiser, Edward McCarthy, said: "On behalf of Sporting Challenge I wish to thank the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme and Groundwork UK who manage the scheme for this fantastic funding award. It will make a huge difference and help us fund more sessions."

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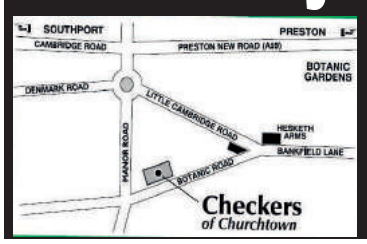

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 16

The recently-inducted Urgent Care Practitioners who will provide a new way of responding to emergency calls.

Ambulance service pilots treatment-at-home scheme

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) is piloting a new way of responding to 999 calls which will see some patients treated in their homes rather than being taken to hospital.

The Urgent Care Practitioners are nurses and paramedics who respond to patients calling the emergency number but don't need an ambulance and a trip to hospital.

With vehicles equipped to treat people on scene, the Urgent Care Practitioners will do all they can to ensure the patient has the help they need, referring on to other local health services if required.

The service says this is positive for patients, who will be avoiding unnecessary trips to A&E, and it will help to keep emergency ambulances free to respond quickly to life-threatening incidents.

The Urgent Care Practitioners will also spend some of their time working within the control centre. In this part of the role, if it is safe to do so, they will use their clinical expertise to give patients care and advice over the telephone or make onward referrals.

David Ratcliffe, medical director at NWAS, said: "We are continuously developing our services to make sure we're providing the best care for patients.

Opportunity

"A large proportion of the 999 calls we receive are for patients who do need support but don't necessarily need an emergency ambulance to take them to hospital. It is these patients who the Urgent Care Practitioners will respond to.

"This pilot is an exciting opportunity to bring new nursing skills to our frontline workforce and use existing paramedic expertise to focus on helping people as close to home as possible. We'll work closely with other health services in the local area to make sure patients get the right care for their needs, at the right time and in the right place."

Jason Mulrooney, a nurse taking on the new Urgent Care Practitioner role, said: "With our existing skills and experience, and the additional training we've been given, we're perfectly placed to give patients the care and support they need. We see ourselves as trailblazers, being one of the few ambulance services in the UK to provide such a service."

The six-month pilot is part of the NWAS Transforming Patient Care programme, which incorporates a number of service developments and initiatives focused on ensuring patients get the right care, at the right time, in the right place every time.

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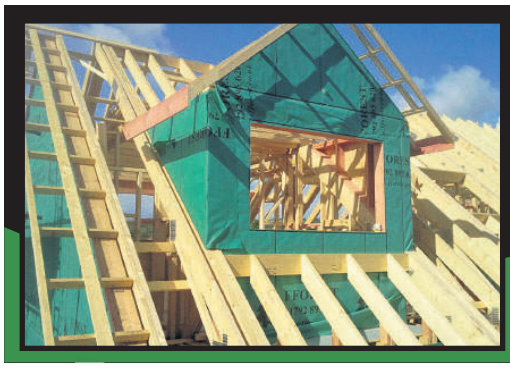

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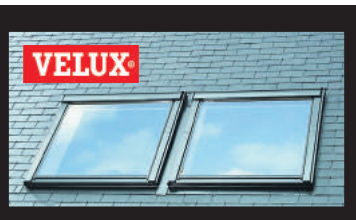

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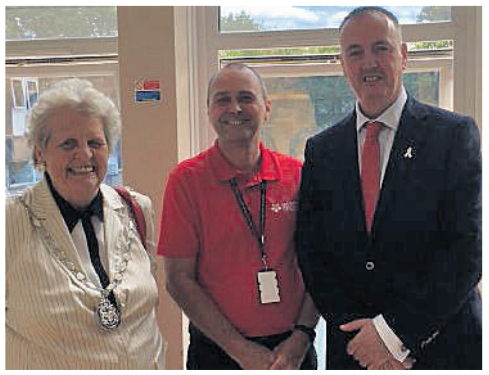

The new chair of Lancashire County Council Anne Cheetham and Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw (right) joined Lancashire Volunteer Partnership to pay tribute to the county's volunteers.

Police chief pays tribute to support of county's volunteers

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has thanked volunteers for all the work they do across the county, during an event celebrating National Volunteers Week (June 1 to 7).

Held by the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership at Lancashire Constabulary's headquarters in Hutton, the 'afternoon tea' saw more than 70 volunteers receive certificates of thanks for the work they do to support public services in Lancashire.

Mr Grunshaw was one of the founding members of the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership when it was set up in 2016, along with Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire County Council and other public sector organisations that are supported by the crucial work that volunteers do.

The partnership brings a wide range of different volunteering opportunities into one place and means people that give up their time to volunteer have access to support that helps both themselves and the organisations that they volunteer for to get the maximum benefit.

Clive Grunshaw, said: "Volunteers provide vital support across our communities and therefore it's important to recognise and celebrate the positive impact they have across Lancashire.

"This event was a great opportunity to thank some of those volunteers that are making a real difference across the county and to recognise the ongoing work being done by the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership.

Wonderful

"Since we were successful in bidding for transformational funding to deliver a joined-up approach for public sector volunteering opportunities, the partnership has gone from strength to strength, helping those who want to give up their time and make a real difference for the benefit of all. I am looking to build on this work later this year by joining together and supporting Lancashire's social action groups."

Chief inspector Ian Sewart, programme manager at Lancashire Volunteer Partnership, added: "Today, as part of National Volunteering Week, is a great opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and the support they provide to public services throughout Lancashire.

"It also marks two years since the formation of the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership, made up of different public services to provide opportunities for people to volunteer.

"Today will see volunteers from across Lancashire who contribute in all manner of different ways, from supporting someone who is isolated and vulnerable all the way through to cadet leaders and library support, come together.

"They all help to make Lancashire a better place and we are extremely proud and thankful for the support they provide, it is a pleasure to recognise their contribution at this event."

To find out more about the opportunities available and apply to become a volunteer, visit http://lancsvp.org.uk.

Care home lays on special tea party to celebrate Margaret's 100th birthday

STAFF at a West Lancs care home laid on an afternoon tea party to celebrate a very special occasion for a long-term resident.

As well as receiving her much-anticipated letter of congratulations from the Queen, great-grandmother Lillian Margaret Pruden - known as Margaret - celebrated her 100th birthday at the Hillcroft Care Home in Aughton, followed by a dinner out with her family.

Originally from Tarleton, Margaret and her late husband of 40 years, Albert, lived in many places including Liverpool before settling in Long Lane, Aughton.

The couple had six children and Margaret worked at the Ford factory in Halewood for 20 years, while Albert, who passed away in 1987, was a JCB driver in the building trade.

Hillcroft manager, Margaret Sutcliffe, said: "It was a pleasure and an honour to be involved in such a special occasion. We would like to thank Margaret and her family for their involvement and support in making it a special day for such a lovely lady."

Right: Margaret Pruden and staff at Hillcroft Care Home who organised a special party to celebrate her 100th birthday.

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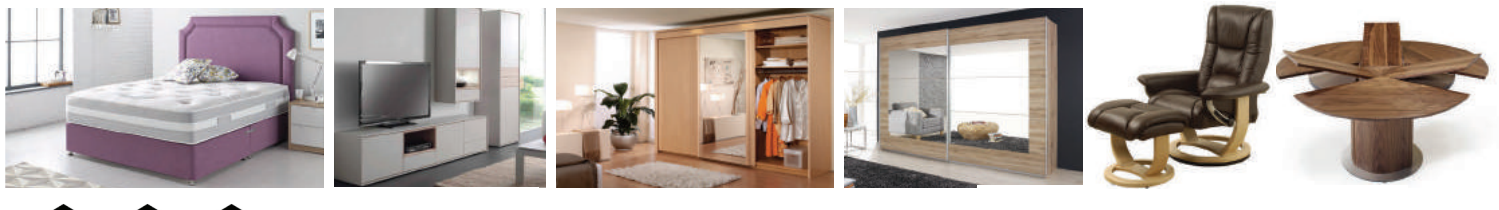

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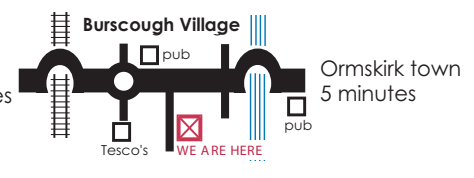

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Former Linnets Trophy hero lands manager's job at League Two club

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

A FORMER Burscough FC player has been appointed manager of League Two side, Exeter City.

Matt Taylor takes over at the Devon club - who narrowly missed out on promotion to League One after losing in the play-off final at Wembley to Coventry City last month - from the Football League's longest-serving manager Paul Tisdale who had held the post for 12 years.

The 36-year-old from Parbold was the goalkeeper in Burscough's FA Trophy winning side in 2003.

Having been on the books of Preston North End and Everton as a youngster, Taylor joined the Linnets after a spell with Burscough Richmond, starting in the reserves before establishing himself as first choice keeper. And, along with his brother Joe who partnered player-manager Shaun Teale at centre-back, he went on to be a key member of the trophy-winning side.

When Teale left in the summer of 2003, Matt went to Sheffield Hallam University, while playing in goal for Matlock, Halifax Town and Guiseley, then to Bath University to take a masters degree.

At Bath, he met Paul Tisdale who was then manager of Team Bath who reached the first round of the FA Cup, and got to play in his preferred position at centre-half.

When Tisdale took over as manager of Exeter City, Matt soon joined him at the then Conference Premier League outfit and became a fans' favourite, twice winning the supporters' player-of-the-year award as they won promotion back into the Football League firstly in League Two and then going up to League One.

Former Burscough FC player Matt Taylor who has been appointed manager of Exeter City.

After 147 appearances for the Grecians, Matt moved to Charlton Athletic in 2011, where manager Chris Powell made him vice-captain. This was followed by spells at Bradford City, Colchester, Cheltenham and Newport County before Paul Tisdale came calling again and invited him to join his coaching team.

And when Tisdale announced he was leaving Exeter to join MK Dons, Matt was interviewed for the manager's post and appointed this month.

He said: "I have a coaching qualification but that is a bit of paper. Nothing can prepare you for management. I am under no illusions as to how difficult it will be but I am going to go for it and enjoy it."

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Is it one rule for smokers and another for other litter louts?

DID you pick up on the story about comedian Johnny Vegas being fined £150 for chucking his spent cigarette end down a drain in Doncaster and the subsequent furore because he was a little miffed about it?

Now Johnny Vegas is one of the very few of the current crop of stand-up comics that I actually find funny, but I would have to reluctantly agree that this is not the best way of disposing of a cigarette butt. However, £150 does seem a tad exorbitant.

These days you can dangerously - and perhaps fatally - exceed the speed limit in your car for less than that, or attack any stranger in the street you happen not to like for that matter. And in one newspaper letter I noted that we smokers are "dirty, lazy litterbugs."

Well several other groups, who seem always to escape the long arm of the local law, could just as well be called the same thing, but rarely are.

If some council official were to start slapping £150 fines on those filthy creatures who spit in the street (and occasionally on public transport as well); or those 'revellers' (newspeak for drunken oafs) who smash glasses and bottles on streets and in parks, which can badly maim animals and could certainly blind any child who chanced to fall on the shards, then I would have less sympathy for Johnny Vegas.

But they don't.

And I get very hot under the collar when I see the ludicrously low fines imposed for cruelty to animals. Oh well, it's just a dog, or horse.

The very councils who impose these fines for 'littering' - and I'm by no means certain that a fag end down a drain really falls into that category - very often don't make that much effort to help would-be non-litterers to help themselves.

I reckon there is a good example of this near to where I live. A large organisation has for some years allowed visitors (and their dogs) to meander round their really rather beautiful grounds. One of the very few rules they very reasonably apply is that dog owners must pick up and take away any dirty doings.

Now my local council has a good track record so far as places to deposit all kinds of litter, including doggy bags, goes. But I have been asking councillors for years why they cannot site a bin at the entrance to this walk, so making it that much more easy for us dog walkers to comply. From memory, I reckon the nearest is at least a quarter of a mile away.

I have pointed out a bin there would be well placed because it is also on a route used by children walking to school. But I've been told that there are only a certain number of waste bins available. And though I can show councillors one road where there are two bins within yards of each other, apparently this doesn't help - because they are in different wards! I would have thought that there must be a way around this, but there remains no bin at the site I suggested and two where one really would suffice.

Mind you, again credit where credit is due. The same council has recently installed new, large and very yellow litter bins in its parks. And they really are good. Large enough not to be full to overflowing every five minutes, and bright yellow enough so no-one could claim they didn't know where they are.

But back to Johnny Vegas and his £150 fine. I very much doubt that Mr Vegas will have a pressing problem in getting the cash together to pay up, but the same might not be true for a pensioner who, wrongly it's true, dropped his or her fag-end down a drain rather than stuff it into a pocket or shopping bag to be disposed of at home.

Particularly when it is more than likely that if he or she does this supposedly environmentally friendly thing, it ends up in landfill anyway.

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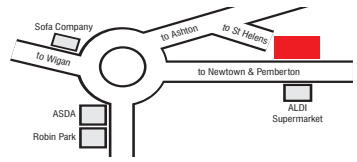

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Pub regulars' fundraising raffle is just the ticket for cancer centre

BIG-hearted tipplers at a West Lancs hostelry have helped to raise £600 for a specialist cancer treatment centre.

The bulk of the cash was collected through a raffle organised by Robert Sumner, a regular at the Heatons Bridge pub in Scarisbrick.

The raffle has become an annual event and Robert says this year saw a terrific response by customers at the pub buying tickets for the chance to win prizes generously donated by local businesses.

On behalf of the charity he offered thanks to those who bought tickets or helped him to sell them, plus businesses who have contributed prizes including Kart World, Whites Motors, Church Garage and Rushdens Nursery.

Care trust's 'it's good to talk' message to people with diabetes

WITH Diabetes Week (June 11 to 17) this year coinciding with Men's Health Week, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Diabetes Services team are calling on people with the condition, particularly men, to talk about it and learn how best to manage it.

Around 700 people are diagnosed with diabetes a day in the UK and Lancashire Care's diabetes services are encouraging people with the condition to have conversations about the condition with their doctors, friends and families.

People with the condition in Lancashire can also access a national programme called DESMOND that provides support to people living with type 2 diabetes. There is an estimated 4.5 million people living with diabetes in the UK with around 1.1 million people who have the condition but have not been diagnosed.

Pam Tetlow from the Diabetes Service at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Talking about diabetes can be tricky, awkward, difficult, funny and everything in between. It can be all of those things for people, from telling someone you've just met about your diabetes, to trying to explain diet changes to relatives or avoiding that conversation with your doctor.

Pam Tetlow from the Diabetes Service at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

"This Diabetes Week, we want to make it easier for you to have those conversations, with your doctor, your friends and family, and people you've just met. We want to get you talking.

"Ensuring that members of the public living with diabetes know how to successfully manage their condition is our priority and utilising the DESMOND programme ensures that we can provide that support and advice. It's important that anyone living with the condition knows there is free and helpful support out there so if you need advice about any of the above or need to talk to someone, contact the local team responsible for your care."

DESMOND is open to people with type 2 diabetes however long they have had a diagnosis. You can self-refer or be referred by health professionals. Attending a DESMOND session will help someone to understand how food, activity and medication affect their diabetes control, what the long term risks of living with type 2 diabetes are and how an individual might reduce these risks.

Trained

A team of nurses, dietitians, podiatrists and educator support workers from the Diabetes Service team at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust are trained to deliver DESMOND to small groups of people with type 2 diabetes. Sessions are free and attendees are welcome to take along a partner, family member or friend.

DESMOND is run in towns and cities throughout the UK. To find out more, contact the DESMOND office on 01772 777620 or email desmond@lancashire-care.nhs.uk. Alternatively, speak to your GP, practice nurse or health care professional.

For general advice on any form of diabetes, call the Diabetes UK Helpline on 0345 123 2399 or visit www.diabetes.org.uk.

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Public's views invited on proposed changes to county's children and family wellbeing service

LANCASHIRE County Council is inviting the public and partner organisations to share their views on proposals to change the way its children and family wellbeing service is delivered.

The proposal is to reduce the number of buildings used to deliver the service and to work within the community in a more flexible way.

The budget for the service has been cut by £1.2m following a cabinet decision in January and as a result it needs to reduce the number of buildings it uses from 76 to 57.

The children and family wellbeing service supports children, young people, parents and families to stay healthy and well and less likely to need to use social care and health services.

Louise Taylor, Lancashire's executive director of adult services, health and wellbeing, said: "We remain committed to providing the best services we can to the people of Lancashire, particularly those in greatest need of our support and the children and family wellbeing service is a key part of our plans.

"We'll continue to provide our service in a flexible way depending on the type of support people need and deliver sessions at buildings and locations which best suit the children and families we work with.

Louise Taylor, executive director of adult services, health and wellbeing

"The types of issues our key workers get involved with include working with families to help improve young people's attendance at school or college, ensuring young people get help to tackle substance misuse, and helping children to be more physically active.

"If approved, the proposal would mean we could provide the service from fewer buildings while maintaining the same number of key workers and front-line staff to work with children, young people and families.

"The county council's financial position remains extremely challenging. However, it's vital that people who use the service and partner organisations are given the opportunity to have their say. All views will be considered by the cabinet before it makes its final decision about the proposals in October."

The proposal also includes commissioning support for 12 to 19 year-olds through the voluntary, community and faith sector to support delivery of services to young people across Lancashire.

The eight-week consultation began on Wednesday, June 6 and runs until Friday, August 3.

To share your views about the proposals, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay or complete a written questionnaire available from local children and family wellbeing centres.

The county council will also hold focus groups, run by an independent facilitator, where the people it supports can share their views.

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Blow the whistle on domestic abuse during the World Cup

WITH the 2018 Football World Cup due to start on Thursday (June 14), West Lancashire Borough Council is urging victims of domestic abuse not to suffer in silence.

According to research by Lancaster University into Lancashire Constabulary figures from the 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups, incidents of domestic abuse rose by 38% in the county when the England national team lost a match.

They also increased by 26 per cent when the England national team played and won or drew, compared with days when there was no England match.

The research also found there was a carry-over effect, with incidents of abuse 11% higher the day after an England match. The day of the week a game took place was taken into account when coming up with these figures.

Domestic abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, financial abuse and emotional or psychological abuse. Anyone who is forced to alter their behaviour because they are frightened of their partner's reaction is being abused. Abuse can happen at any stage of a relationship and is very rarely a 'one-off'.

Men can also be the victims of domestic abuse. Between June 2016 and May 2017 in 20% of domestic abuse-related crimes in West Lancashire the victim was male.

The council is using some of the resources supplied by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise awareness of domestic abuse during the World Cup and also supports the White Ribbon Campaign, an international initiative aimed at ensuring men take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "Domestic abuse is a crime and the research from Lancaster University suggest that the Football World Cup is a time where this crime can be more common.

Sympathetic

"We want victims to know that they are not alone and if they approach those services that can help them their complaints will be handled with care by people sympathetic to what they are going through."

The Liberty Centre in Ormskirk helps victims in a number of ways. These include a free confidential 24-hour advice and information line number 0808 100 3062; practical and emotional support for all victims of domestic abuse; confidential counselling; legal advice and the Women's Refuge for short-term accommodation.

Gwen Bleasdale, chief executive of the Liberty Centre, said: "We want anyone living in fear to come forward, including men. We will listen, understand and support anyone who is a victim or is just making an enquiry.

"There are many reasons why women may find it difficult to see their situation as abusive or even leave an abusive relationship.

"A woman may not know where to go or even believe it is better to stay for the sake of her children. If victims don't know what to do they can phone us and get some advice."

Help and support is also available through Lancashire Victims Service by calling 0300 323 0085.

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Big improvement in labelling of allergens by food businesses

...but beware of claims for 'wellness' products

FOOD businesses in the county have 'upped their game' when selling food containing allergens (substances causing an allergic reaction) according to Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards Service.

However, the consumer protection service is warning of a growing risk from so-called wellness foods and supplements.

Over the past three years the percentage of businesses failing tests for ingredients containing allergens which hadn't been declared on menus has dropped from 40% to 12.5%.

Trading Standards is working closely with businesses to make sure they understand the serious implications of serving food containing undeclared allergens, and bring any which fail sample tests into line.

The figures have been highlighted during Food Standards Agency's national Food Safety Week (June 10-16).

Rachel Wilcock, the service's principal officer for food, works to inspect and advise businesses to ensure the food on our plates is safe, and contains only what the label or menu says it does. She said: "We carry out sample tests on a quarterly basis to check how well food businesses are complying with their obligations around allergens, and identify those where we need to take further action.

Rachel Wilcock, principal officer for food at the county council's Trading Standards

"The good news is that over the last three years we've seen a real improvement in the proportion of businesses passing, and while we don't want any failures at all, I hope this gives people confidence that their food has become safer in this respect.

"We're working hard to bring that failure rate as close to zero as possible, and are building on what we're already doing by producing a new information and training pack which we'll be rolling out to businesses later this year."

At the same time, the trading standards service says an emerging area of concern is the growth in foods and supplements produced as part of the 'wellness' industry, which are marketed with claims about their potential to improve our health.

Rachel added: "We are now seeing an increase in wellness-related foods. Unfortunately, sample tests are finding that some of these products don't contain what the label says; contain things which haven't been tested and passed as safe for human consumption; or extra ingredients which are not on the label.

"There could be all sorts of potential health consequences to consuming untested ingredients, as well as wider impacts for society and individuals. In the case of fitness supplements for example, an unlisted ingredient could lead an athlete to fail a dope test.

"Wellness foods and supplements is an area of the industry we're focusing on more and more. As with any product or service you buy, our advice is always to be alert to any special claims being made about them and question whether you're buying from a reputable source. If any claim sounds too good to be true, then it probably is."

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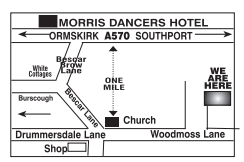

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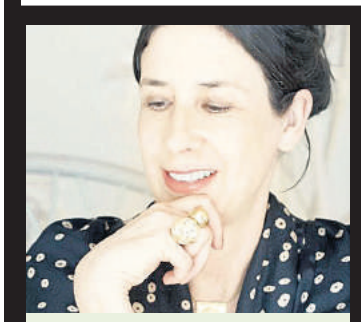

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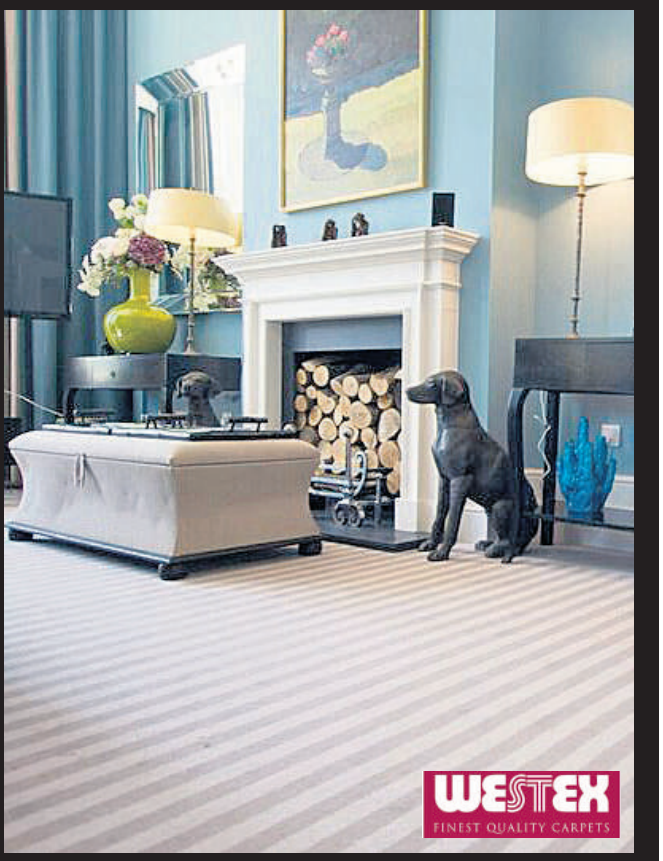

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Our Wonderful World to be theme of village fair

Report by **Kenny Parker**

OUR Wonderful World is the theme for this year's Newburgh Fair on Saturday, June 23 which will start with a procession through the village at noon.

Children are busy making costumes in special workshops to interpret the theme which has been prompted by the *Blue Planet* TV series.

Fiona Casey, chairwoman of the Newburgh Fair Association, said: "Visitors to the fair can expect decorated floats with children in costumes representing all manner of beasties. The over-sevens in the procession will also wear T-shirts with undersea images designed by 10-year old Jack Williams in a competition run by Newburgh CE Primary School."

The theme will also be picked up in a craft fair with competitions for Wonderful World photos, drawings, paintings and handmade items.

Fiona added: "We always try to refresh the fair with new features, as well as preserving old favourites. New this year will be the talented Red Admiral Music Academy Band from Mawdesley who will lead the procession and perform in the arena; and circus workshops by Circus Sensible to entertain children and adults alike."

The fair will also feature the annual Rose Queen crowning, the Newburgh Morris dancers and an energetic display of clog dancing.

And the much-loved village dog show is being revived, while contestants will be putting their strength to the test in the tug-of-war challenge.

During the week leading up to the fair the programme includes a Lancashire Folk Night offering songs, stories and silliness from the 'Bolton Bullfrog', Bernard Wrigley, accompanied by Newburgh folksinger Mark Dowding.

The full programme for the fair week is:

Sunday, June 17, 10.30am - Family Service with Rev David Towler.

Tuesday, June 19, 7pm - Douglas Valley Lions Club Bingo.

Wednesday, June 20, 7.30pm - Folk Night with Bernard Wrigley and Mark Dowding;.

Thursday, June 21, 7.30pm- PTA Ladies Night.

Friday, June 22, 7pm - Community Quiz Night.

Then on Saturday the fair will run from noon to 4.30pm.

All events will be staged in a marquee on the field off Newburgh School in Back Lane.

Ten-year old Jack Williams who came up with the winning design (pictured right) for this year's Newburgh Fair T-shirt.

Historic St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall will be open to visitors on Halsall Heritage Weekend.

History and fun on offer at Halsall Heritage Weekend

ST CUTHBERT'S Church, Halsall, will be hosting guided tours as part of a heritage weekend between 2 and 5pm on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17.

Photos of village festivals from the past, including Rose Queens, garden parties, parades and outings, will be on display, along with other historical documents related to the church which dates back to the 14th century.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to see the refurbished clock tower and bell tower and those able to climb the steps of the tower will have an opportunity to try bell ringing. Children will be encouraged to have a go too.

The open weekend has been organised to run alongside the Halsall Scarecrow Treasure Trail taking place on the same days and times.

Entrants in the trail will go around the village centre seeking answers to questions all about the scarecrows. Entry forms, priced £3, are available from St Cuthbert's Church during the weekend.

All entries, completed or not, will be entered into a prize draw to win family-friendly prizes. Proceeds will go to Halsall Proud & Tidy Group, whose volunteers help to keep the village looking attractive.

For further information visit the Facebook pages Halsall Heritage Weekend and Halsall Scarecrow Festival.

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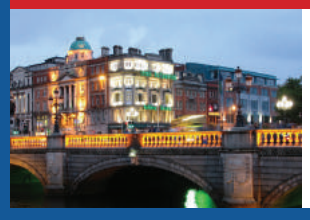

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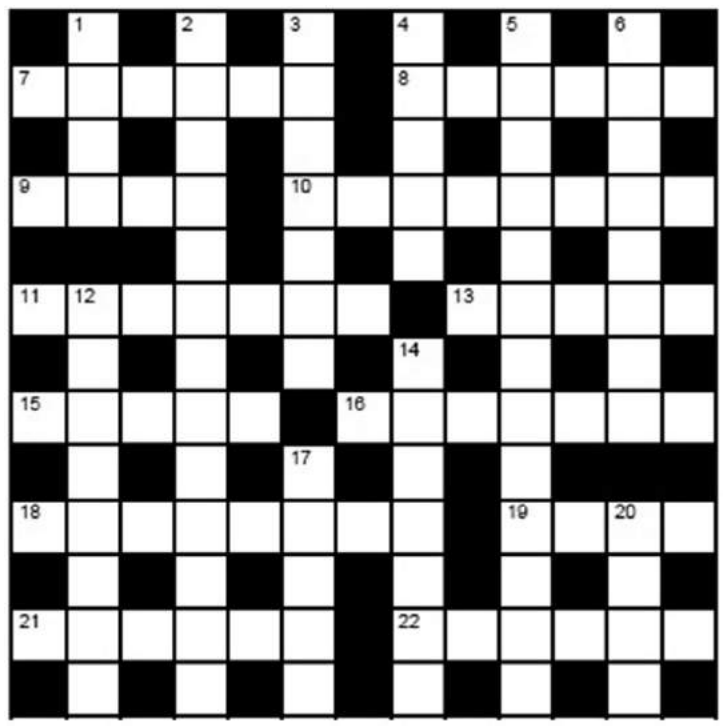

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ACROSS

7. Kidney-shaped nut (6)
8. Capricious (6)
9. Move swiftly and lightly (4)
10. Cynical (8)
11. Make more agreeable, sugar-coat (7)
13. Say something, talk (5)
15. Narrow, sheltered waterway (5)
16. Prevailing tone or central theme (7)
18. Place in the home for personal hygiene activities (8)
19. Dispense or allot (4)
21. Picturesque (6)
22. Refuse to take notice of or acknowledge (6)

DOWN

1. Imprison (4)
2. A possession that is useless or troublesome (5, 8)
3. Forced out of its natural or proper shape (7)
4. Burning, being in a state of great excitement or energy (5)
5. Musical support (13)
6. Person formally demanding a payment or asserting a right to something (8)
12. Ritual performed before a battle or to celebrate victory (3, 5)
14. Mythical sea creature (7)
17. Flashlight (5)
20. Small mountain lake (4)

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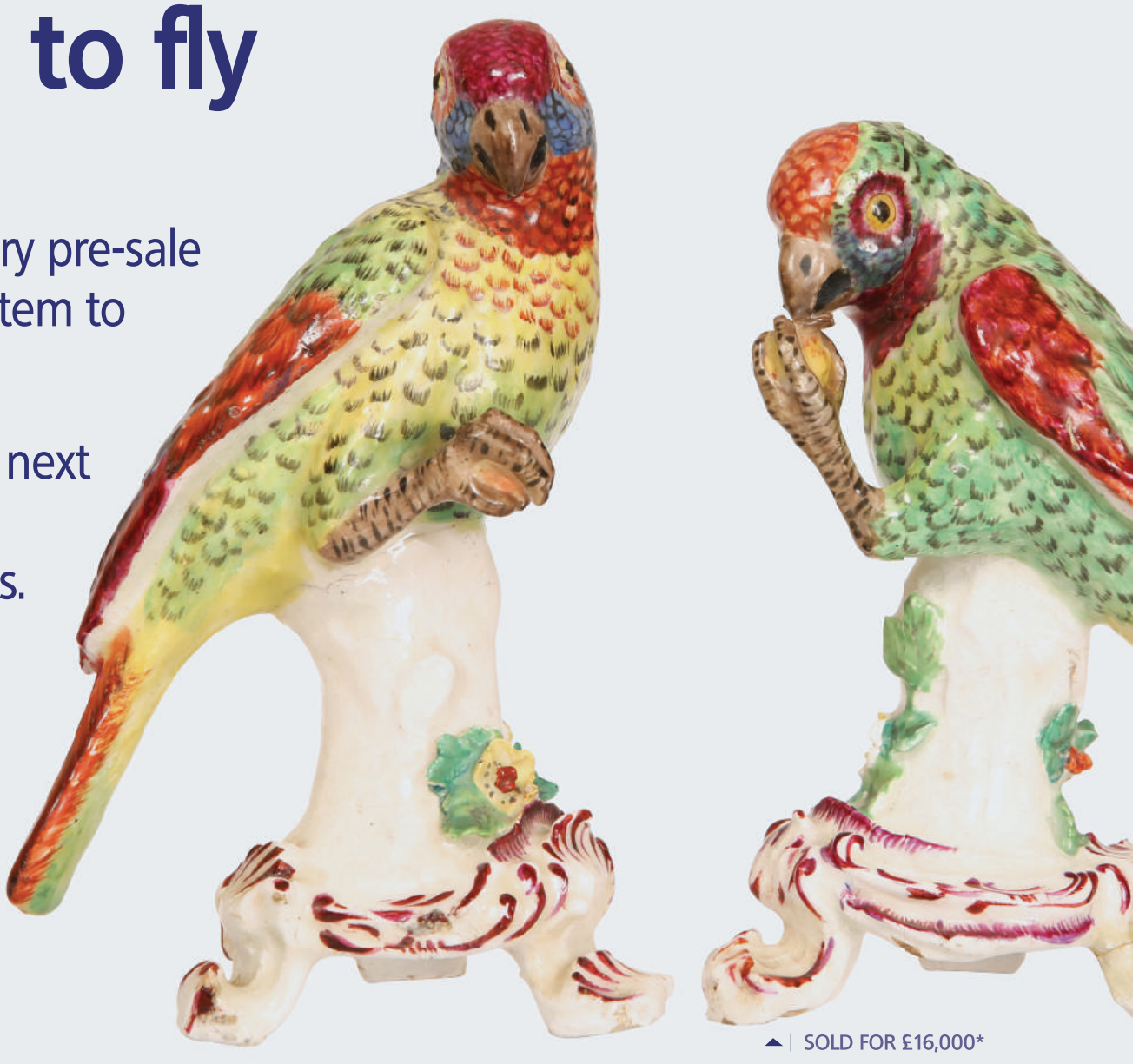

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One of country's best loved pianists will be performing in village

PARBOLD Douglas Music is delighted to present international pianist, Martin Roscoe performing in the Auditorium in the Village Hall on Saturday, June 23 at 7.45 p.m.

With an extraordinary career spanning over four decades, Martin Roscoe from the Lake District is one of the UK's best loved pianists and is renowned for his versatility at the keyboard.

With a repertoire of over 100 concertos performed or recorded, Martin works regularly with many of the UK's leading orchestras, such as the BBC Philharmonic and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

A limited number of stand-by tickets are always available at the Box Office on the evening of the concert.

However, to ensure availability, book or order tickets by visiting www.parbolddouglasmusic.org email them on tickets@parbolddouglasmusic.org or telephone: 01257 498452 (booking answerphone). Concert tickets are £18 for adults and £5 for young persons and students.

Those who attend the concert will hear a programme that offers a wonderful variety of music on the theme of the Nocturne.

The evening includes: John Field's Nocturne for Piano, Frederic Chopin's Nocturnes, Robert Schumann's Nachstucke, Sir Albert Bax's In the Night (Passacaglia for piano), Claude Debussy's La serenade interrompue; La soiree dans Grenade, Maurice Ravel's Noctuelles, Karol Szymanowski's La Serenade de Don Juan and Alexander Scriabin's Nocturne for the Left Hand.

Martin Roscoe

It aims to be "a dazzling programme from Martin" who has been said to be "a pianist who both thinks and offers full-blooded playing of breadth and depth. In this country, he is an uncommon creature…" Daily Telegraph. Read more about Martin at: www.martinroscoe.co.uk.

henry.james@champnews.com

Ormskirk Music Society Orchestra and Choir - in rehearsal with choral director: Dan Adams

Orchestra to mark centenary of end of First World War

THE orchestra and choir of Ormskirk Music Society are presenting their Summer concert on Saturday, June 30 at 7.30pm at Ormskirk School.

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, the programme will be an Entente Cordiale, featuring the music of English and French composers.

For the occasion, musical director Jim Cooke has composed a medley for choir and orchestra - The Great War - featuring songs of the period.

The orchestra are delighted to welcome two talented soloists, Helena Cooke, the orchestra's principal flautist, who will play Cecile Chaminade's sparkling and romantic Flute Concertino, and 17-year-old Jerome Ness on guitar, a student of the Junior Royal Northern College of Music, who will play Malcolm Arnold's Serenade for Guitar and Strings.

The concert is supported by the Malcolm Arnold Trust, and also includes his Eight English Dances. And in keeping with the Great War theme, the orchestra will perform two quintessentially English pieces – Banks of Green Willow and a Shropshire Lad - by George Butterworth, a promising young composer of the era, who was killed at the Battle of the Somme.

Other French highlights include Ravel's Pavane pour une infante défunte, Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine and Franck: Panis Angelicus.

Tickets are available online from TicketSource.co.uk, in advance from Catherine Ness (01695 556548 or catherine.oms@btinternet.com) or on the door priced at £10, £5 for under-18s and students. For more information, visit ormskirkmusicsociety.org.uk or Facebook facebook.com/OrmskirkMusicSociety.

A scene from Let It Be

Popular Beatles show returning to Empire

LET It Be: A Celebration Of The Music Of The Beatles returns to the UK for a national tour starting in Summer 2018, playing the Liverpool Empire from September 3 to 8.

The talented cast who will portray the Fab Four in the show have been revealed – coinciding with the 48th anniversary of Let It Be the album, which was released on May 8 1970.

Let It Be is the 12th and final studio album released by The Beatles – almost a month after the band split and went their separate ways. The album release also came shortly before the film of the same title opened in cinemas.

And now, Let It Be: A Celebration Of The Music Of The Beatles returns to the UK with a new second half of the popular show – giving audiences a rare glimpse of how the band may have continued as a four-piece. Fans will see The Beatles reunite for one night only, with the new section of the show set a decade after the group went their separate ways.

A cast of talented musicians will take to stages across the country as the Fab Four, wowing audiences with their effortless and indistinguishable portrayal as John, Paul, George and Ringo. The performers have already toured the show to some of the biggest stages in the world including Broadway.

The cast are revealed as Michael Gagliano who will play John Lennon; Emanuele Angeletti as Paul McCartney; John Brosnan as George Harrison; and Ben Cullingworth as Ringo Starr. The band will be joined on stage throughout the tour by musical director Michael Bramwell on keyboards.

Producer Jeff Parry commented: "I grew up listening to The Beatles, they sparked a passion for music which, for me personally, has gone on to become so much more – a career, and a way of life."

Let It Be has firmly established itself as a successful West End and international touring show. And now the smash-hit stage show has been updated and is back on tour, featuring a new Let It Be Part II – which has never been seen before in the UK.

The show is a celebration of the phenomenal music of The Beatles, and has already been seen by more than two million people worldwide, including an acclaimed run in the West End and two UK tours.

Let It Be is the ultimate experience for Beatles fans, and features many of the Fab Four's best loved songs including: A Hard Days Night, Day Tripper, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Twist and Shout, I Want To Hold Your Hand and Strawberry Fields Forever.

Beatles fans are invited to join John, Paul, George and Ringo for a great night of live music. Enjoy the early beginnings at the word famous Cavern Club, through to Beatlemania.

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HOUSE AND HOME

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DEATHS

HARVEY THOMAS (TUCKER)

3rd June 2018
Passed away suddenly but peacefully
aged 65 years
of Ormskirk
formerly of Liverpool

Dearly loved Husband of Margaret, Devoted Dad of Nicola and Carol, Loving Brother of Maureen and Dear Uncle of Kate and Stevie. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough on Wednesday 20th June at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tele: 01695 424888.

HATTON GEORGE GEOFFREY

Suddenly at home on 23rd May 2018 aged 76 years

A much loved Husband of Margaret and a much loved Father of Rod and Gaynor. George will be sadly missed by all his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 14th June 2018 at 1.45pm. No black clothing to be worn, as per family request. Family flowers only by request please but the family are receiving donations for Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

OWEN JACK

Passed away peacefully 7th June 2018 aged 78 years of Lathom

Dearly Loved Dad of Keith, Paul and Ann, Jacqueline, Lorraine, Lucy and Matt, Megan and Neil. Loving Grandad of Matthew, Jack and Harry, Thomas, James and Lily, Rebekah, Daniel and Alex, Jorja, Jack and Great Grandchildren. Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Wednesday 20th June at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only please by request but donations are being gratefully received for The British Lung Foundation and Cancer Research. Donations and further enquiries please to Anabel Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough L40 5TP. Tel: 01704 891555.

SHEPHERD MARGARET NEE WILSON

On 1st June 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 88 Years

Beloved Wife of Ron, loving Mum of John, Lynda, Carol and Marion, dear Mother in law of Maureen, Steve and Darren, much loved Grandma of Paul, Laura and Kyla, and a loving Great Grandma and Great Great Grandma. Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 14th June at 12:00 noon. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

PARR THOMAS JAMES

3rd June 2018
aged 90 years

Devoted and loving Father to Margaret (late) Trevor and Valerie. Much loved Grandad to Martin, Diane, Alistair and Stuart. Beloved friend of Iris. Father-in-law, Uncle and friend to many. Will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough today, 13th June 2018 at 4pm and then afterwards at The Yew Tree, Grimshaw Lane, Ormskirk. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice Southport. Further enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk Tel: 01695 572997

MARRIOTT SHEILA

On 31st May 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 82 years

Beloved Wife of Colin, loving Mum of Lesley and Anthony, dear Mother in law of Ken and Lisa, much loved Nan of Lucy, Emma, Lewis, Jess and Elissa, and Great Grandma of Lia-Mae, Sophia, Ezmee and Isla. Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 22nd June at 2:40pm. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Alder Hey Children's Charity. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

WATKINS MONICA (MON)

On 28th May 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 84 years

Loving Wife of the late Ron, dearly loved Mum of Kevin and Graham, dear Mother in law of Trish and Karen, and a much loved Nana of Rhian, Rachel, Sophie and Katy. Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 19th June at 12:00 noon. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

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DEATHS

RATCLIFFE CATHERINE (KITTY)

3rd June 2018

Reunited with our beloved Dad (Tommy).
If roses grow in Heaven take a bunch for us,
Place them in our Mothers arms and tell her they're from us.
Tell her we love and miss her
and when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile,
Words cannot express our pain, heartache and loss,
Treasured memories we will keep.
RIP Mum
xxx
Your loving Sons Thomas and Michael and Daughter Ann, Daughter in Law Anne, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Great Great Grandson, Carl (Philippines), Sharon, Dave and Louis (Australia).
Give our Anthony a hug and kiss from me
xxx

SHAW SYLVIA ETHEL

5th June 2018
Peacefully at
Aughton Park Care Home
aged 80 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Bill and loving Sister of Brian (deceased), Peter (deceased), Margaret, Derek and Susan.
Funeral service and interment at Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe on Friday 15th June 2018 at 10:30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for R.N.I.B. talking books service.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122/581769

DEATHS

RATCLIFFE CATHERINE (KITTY)

3rd June 2018
Suddenly at home
aged 90 years

Loving Wife of the late Tommy, devoted Mum, Nan, Great Nan and Great Great Nan. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 15th June at 11.30am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Crisis. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale
Tel: 01695 559868

RATCLIFFE CATHERINE (KITTY) NAN

3rd June 2018

Of all the special gifts in life
to have you as our Nan
was the greatest gift of all.

We love and miss you Nan
Forever in our hearts
RIP Nan
Broken hearted
Grandson
Justin,Cathy and Thomas

XXX

WALKER DOROTHY 'DOLLY'

After a long illness suddenly in hospital on 30th May 2018
Aged 84 years

Much loved Wife of James. Dear Mum of Michael, Paula, Thomas, Mary, Mildred and Linda. Will be sadly missed by all her family, grandchildren and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 1.45pm. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Air Ambulance. Further enquiries please to:- The Co-operative Funeralcare, 36 Westway, Maghull, L31 0AB, Tel 0151 527 1709.

DEATHS

FARINI HAZEL

Passed away at home on 5th June 2018
aged 79 years
of Ormskirk

Much Loved Wife of the late Dennis, Dearly loved Mum and Nan, Loved and missed by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass at St. Annes R.C Church Ormskirk on Friday 22nd June 2018 at 1.15pm, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for The British Heart Foundation. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tel: 01695 424888.

WOOD ADA

5th June 2018
aged 93 years

Reunited with her Husband Bill. Dearly loved Mum to Sandra, Mum in law to Stan. Much loved Nan of Craig & Kerri and Debbie & Paul. Great Gran of Anthony, Holly and Daniel. Loved and remembered always. Funeral service at Ormskirk Parish Church on Monday 18th June at 11.30am. Interment following in the Churchyard. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to British Red Cross in Ada's memory would be appreciated.
All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2EY.
Tel:01695 572997

TURNER BERNARD WILLIAM (BERNIE)

8th November 1948 -
21st May 2018
YNWA

Sadly passed away Formerly of 12 Parker Crescent, Ormskirk

DEATHS

GOLIGHTLY JOAN

Passed away on 30th May 2018
aged 77 years
of Aughton

Much Loved Wife of John, dearly Loved Mum of Peter & Lorna, Janet & Andrew. Loving Grandma of Nick, Robert & Stephen. Funeral Service at Interment at Greenacres Woodland Burial Park, Rainford, On Monday 18th June 2018 at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Research. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tel 01695 424888.

DAWSON THOMAS

6th June 2018
Peacefully in hospital
aged 90 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of the late Frances, loving Dad of Linda, Sylvia, David, Roy and Christine, dear Father in law of Derek, Bob, Jean, Collette and Allan and devoted Grandad to all his Grand and Great Grandchildren.
Funeral service at St Paul's Church on Monday 18th June 2018 at 1:00pm followed by interment at West Lancashire Cemetery, Burscough.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122/720012

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DEATHS

SMITH HEIDI

4th June 2018

Passed away so suddenly.
"Always in our thoughts"
From the Carlyle families.

Rest In Peace.

MOSS DAVID

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on 3rd June 2018
aged 69 years

Dearly loved Husband of Ann and a much loved Dad of Alastair.
"Will be greatly missed by all his family and friends and the customers of Pet Paraphernalia in Burscough"
Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 15th June at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for the British Heart Foundation. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP.
Tel: 01704 891555.

COOPER TERRY

On 3rd June 2018
Peacefully in a Nursing Home
Aged 82 Years
'Organist'

Much loved Pops of Lauren, Spud and Yvette, dear Grandad of Ella, Livy, Leo and Nancy fancy pants. 'Terry will be sadly missed by all his family and friends'. Funeral service and committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium today Wednesday 13th June at 2:30pm. Further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG.
Tel: 01704 214118.

DEATHS

PEDDER AMY ELIZABETH

3rd June 2018
Aged 89 years

Died peacefully.
Devoted Wife of the late Norman, much loved Mum of Carol. Cherished Sister of Vera and the late Nellie, May, John and Stan. Amy will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 14th June at 3:20pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Parkinson's UK.
Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Telephone: 01704 500086.

CAWTHORN PETER

Of Hesketh Bank

Peter died peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

Peter will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
Celebration of life service to be held at Hesketh Bank Chapel, Chapel Lane, Hesketh Bank on Monday 25th June at 10.30am.

Donations are being gratefully received in memory of Peter for Hesketh Bank Chapel.

Further enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ.
Telephone 01772 811165

NORRIS ALICE

6th June 2018
Of Tarleton
90 Years

Alice died peacefully surrounded by her family. Alice will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to take place at Holy Trinity Church Tarleton on Friday 15th June at 1.30pm followed by Internment at St Marys Churchyard Tarleton. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KEHOE WINIFRED

The families of Win Kehoe would like to thank all who recently sent cards, best wishes and messages of sympathy on the recent loss of their lovely Mum,they are gratefully received and much appreciated. Donations if wished to Dementia UK... all enquiries to MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tel 01695 424888.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

FLANAGAN ANTHONY JAMES

Margaret and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their help and support and kind messages of sympathy on their sad loss of Tony. A big thank you to Fr Bruce and the bereavement team at St Benets for all their help and wonderful service for Tony. Thank you for all donations to British Heart Foundation and a big thank you to McCallum and Tritton for all their professional care and support.
God Bless You All

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

BALL JOHN

14th June

Remembering you is easy,
We do it every day,
It's just the pain of losing you,
That never goes away.

From your loving Wife Pauline, your children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

xxx

LYN CURRIE

12th June 1918
100 years old

There was a wonderful lady in our life.
A Friend, Mother and loving Wife.
To us, just Mum, but admired by everyone.

Today, 12th June, 100 she would have been, 94 years she had seen.
Her spirit lives on in us all.

Chris, Roger and Paul

xxx

IN MEMORIAM

MUNRO SARAH (SAL)

19th June 2007

Loved you then,
Love you still,
You know, I guess I always will.

Your ever loving Husband Tony, children Gerard, John, Diane and Matt, and grandchildren Grace, Caleb and Ethan

xxxx

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 15 PUBLICATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
PLANNING APPLICATION NO - LCC/2018/0023
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - ERECTION OF NEW MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP AND OFFICE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF AND AN ADDITIONAL FIVE CAR PARKING SPACES AT TOWER HOUSE, STOPGATE LANE, SIMONSWOOD

I give notice that Simonswood Properties Ltd is applying to the Lancashire County Council for the above development.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, plans and documents at Lancashire County Council, Development Management Group, County Hall, PO Box 100, Preston, PR1 0LD or at the Planning Department, West Lancashire Borough Council, Council Offices, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, during normal office hours until 4 July 2018.The application can also be viewed on the County Council's website **planningregister.lancashire.gov.uk**

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the County Council by 4 July 2018 at the above address, via email DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk or via 'Have your Say' on the County Council's website.

Information regarding the decision will be available on the website within 5 working days of the decision. Details on how to speak at the Development Control Committee are also available on the web page

Andy Mullaney, Head of Service for Planning and Environment
On Behalf of Lancashire County Council
Date: 13 June 2018

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

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West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0492/FUL Installation of 5 No. external condenser units and 1No. air handling unit, to be positioned on rear elevation/flat roof at second floor level at Barclays, 3 Aughton Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0533/FUL Development of a lit dual use foot/cycleway from Yeadon in Skelmersdale Town Centre, along the Tawd Valley to the junction of Summer Street and Marland, with an associated spur linking West Lancashire College directly to the route, including minor changes to car parking within the grounds of West Lancashire College. (Amendment to planning permission 2015/1140/FUL) at Footpath To The North-west Of, Yeadon, Skelmersdale.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.

2018/0577/FUL Proposed part single, part 2 storey rear extension, new porch and improved frontage, plus revised driveway to accommodate cars leaving in a forward gear at 54C Roby Mill, Up Holland.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/0592/FUL Single storey rear extension, front and rear dormer, front porch at 3 Brandreth Drive, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
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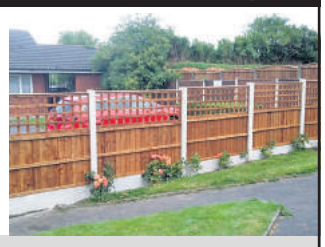

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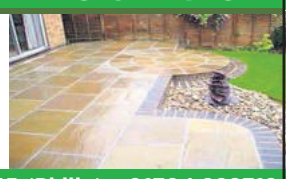

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Life On Cars
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THERE are several things, I've long maintained, that I can do marginally better when I'm slightly smashed.

Singing *Angels*, for instance. There is not a chance on earth that I'd attempt the high notes on Robbie Williams' teary-eyed ballad in the cold, sober light of day, but given a single malt or three I might just be tempted to belt it out in front of a pub full of strangers on a Friday night. I'm dreadful at pool too, but I remain steadfastly convinced that my ability to master a cue improves ever so slightly midway through pint number three.

But my control of a Citroen C1 – or any other car, for that matter – most definitely doesn't, so I'm amazed that so many people still attempt it. In 2016, the most recent year for which figures are available, some 59,000 of us either took a breathalyser test and failed or simply refused to bother altogether. That means that on average there are at least 160 people *a day* taking to Her Majesty's highway who are convinced that they are *X Factor*-worthy pool champions. If they drive as badly as they sing, that's a terrifying thought.

Which is why the Department for Transport is cracking down on it by announcing a competition – and it's not for who can down the most Frosty Jacks before hopping behind the wheel of a Volkswagen Polo. The £350,000 prize will go to whichever company invents a mobile breathalyser so accurate that it can determine your smashed-ness without a subsequent trip to the nearest police station, and have it fitted it to a police car near you within the next 18 months. The lucky few on the raggedy edge of being hammered will no longer be able to sober up in the back of a marked Vauxhall Insignia, en-route to walking (well, swaying) free by the skin of their teeth. It will mean you'll be done for drink-driving, well and comprehensively, on the spot.

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Bring it on, I say. I'll defend to the death my right to wander into a nightclub while a teeny bit tipsy and dance to the *Grease Megamix* on a work night out in a way that I'll almost certainly regret the following morning, but no one in that state should be behind the wheel. If more accurate breathalysers make it a cast-iron certainty that you'll get nicked, then that's got to a good thing.

And anyway, there are plenty of cars that you can happily commandeer if belting through *Angels* badly is your thing. They're called taxis.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Ainsdale's Mark Lucas on his way to an unbeaten 51* against Newton le Willows. Picture by Roger Green.

Murray defiance not enough to save Burscough

BURSCOUGH suffered a heavy defeat at home to Southport & Birkdale who moved to the top of the First Division table, while still having a game in hand over most of their rivals.

Bradley Yates led the way with the bat for S&B with his second century of the season (111* inc 16x4 & 2x6), whilst Alex Trimboli 50 scored his maiden half century allowing Chris Firth to declare the innings on 241-5, with Daniel Unsworth taking 4-70 with the ball.

In reply Chris Andrews scored 34 early on and some late defiance from Alan Murray 51 almost salvaged a draw, but the experience of former Lancashire player Gary Keedy proved pivotal as his 5-26 off 19.1 overs helped dismiss the hosts for 134.

Second placed Orrell Red Triangle came back from the dead to record a 31 run home win over Fleetwood Hesketh, Gavin Dickenson 5-56 and Danny Murphy 4-32 combined to dismiss the one time leaders for 91. In reply, the visitors slipped from 27-0 to 60 all out, as Afaq Sartaj 4-5 and Minhaj Bhada 3-13 ripped the heart out of the lower and middle order to leave Fleetwood's travelling barmy army devastated.

Third placed Ainsdale had a comfortable nine wicket home win against Newton le Willows.

The hosts chose to bat and were soon dismissed for 97, with Sam White claiming 5-20 with the ball. In reply, Mark Lucas 51* and Brandon Faber 39* eased the hosts to 100-1 to wrap up a maximum points victory.

Robinson leads way as Ormskirk edge home by three wickets at Leigh

ORMSKIRK remain in fourth place in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division after a three wicket win at Leigh.

The hosts elected to bat first and were dismissed for 166, with Toby Bulcock scoring 89 of them, whilst Scott Lees was the pick of the bowlers on show for Ormskirk with 4-47.

In reply, Ian Robinson 57, Luke Platt 28 and Andy Baybutt 27 paved the way for the visitors to wrap up victory on 167-7.

Leaders Northern had a 13 run home win over Rainhill at the weekend, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

After electing to bat, Northern managed to put 170-8 dec up on the board, thanks in no small part to some middle to late order runs from Justin Snow 48, Tom Jones 25* and Jack Boardman 23, whilst the pick of the bowlers were Akshay Darekar 5-68 and Ryan Williams 3-57.

In reply, Tyler McGladdery 46 and Matthew Fletcher 32 helped the visitors to 67-1, before Justin Snow 5-30 and Liam Grey 3-43 got in on the act and dismissed Rainhill for 157, giving James Cole's side a seven point lead at the top.

Second placed Formby recorded a 16 run win at Highfield.

Formby chose to bat and thanks to runs from Tim Smithies 91, Sam Oldham 50 and an unbeaten 24 from Ollie Sutton were able to declare on 210-7, with Darshan Misal 4-57 and Sam Rotherham 3-79 taking all the wickets.

In reply, Owais Shah 55, Jake Burrows 30, Misal 27 and Michael Gaskell 26 all chipped in with useful runs, before Sabbir Patel 6-64 and Lukman Vahaluwala 3-22 sealed victory for Formby with the ball as the hosts were bowled out for 194.

Third placed Bootle thrashed Colwyn Bay by ten wickets at Wadham Road.

After electing to bat the Welshmen were blown away for just 76, with Will Purser 7-39 and Chris Liptrot 3-29 taking every wicket to fall.

In reply, Will Hale hit an unbeaten 57 off 45 balls and Vishal Tripathi was undefeated on 21 as the hosts eased to victory on 80-0.

This weekend's local LDCC fixtures (1pm): Formby v Bootle, Lytham v Northern, Ormskirk v Highfield, Fleetwood Hesketh v Wigan, Prestatyn v Burscough, Southport & Birkdale v Ainsdale, Hightown St Mary's v St Helens Town, Maghull v Alder and Sutton v Southport Trinity.

Maghull fall 73 runs short at St Helens

MAGHULL suffered a 72 run defeat in their Second Division encounter at St Helens Town where Daniel Roberts 92 and Liam Gaskell 32 helped the hosts to declare on 203-8.

In reply, Anthony Molloy 32, Josh Mahoney 26 and Cam Lawrenson 22 all made decent starts but were unable to push on as the visitors were dismissed for 131.

In Southport Trinity lost a low scoring contest against Northop Hall at the Rookery.

The visitors chose to bat and were bowled out for 106 with Jamie Hodgson 27 and Jack Billington 27 scoring over half of them, whilst Jake Sunderland took 5-49 and Luke Falkiner 3-20 with the ball.

In reply, the hosts also struggled with the bat, but thanks to Shaun Robson 40 and Falkiner 15 managed to push the score up to 102-7 until Daniel Clubbe 4-42 returned into the attack and mopped up the tail leaving Trinity 105 all out just two runs short of victory.

Hightown St Mary's drew at leaders Caldy, Shaun Vosloo 48*, Jayden Schadendorf 36 and skipper Ben Ashcroft 30 helped put 201 up on the board for the visitors, with Piushan Gamekankanamge 3-38, Chris Edwards 3-40 and Haroon Khan 3-42 taking the bulk of the wickets. In reply Mark Wilkie 49 and an unbeaten 39* from Gamekankanamge almost gave the leaders victory, but some tidy bowling from Jan Gadzina 3-33 and Jim Kelly 3-43 meant honours were even as they closed on 195-7.

Skem add firepower to their attack with two new strikers

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

HAVING lost his main marksman Scott Bakkor to Stalybridge Celtic a couple of weeks ago, Skelmersdale United manager Dave Powell has moved quickly to replace him.

He has brought in not one but two promising local strikers in the form of Kevin Edgar and Danny Boden, who have both arrived from North West Counties side Bootle.

Skem know a fair bit about them as significantly their manager at former club AFC Liverpool was Chris Stammers who is now on Dave Powell's coaching staff.

After Chris departed from AFC Liverpool in December they moved on to Bootle in February.

After bagging 15 goals in 27 games for AFC, Edgar hit another nine in 18 games for Bootle, although Boden has not been so prolific he hit ten in 28 games for AFC.

They become the second and third players on Skem's books who were at AFC Liverpool, joining left-back Jack Fleming. If they do as well as Fleming has done they will be valuable members of the side.

Speaking on the Skelmersdale United FC website, Kevin Edgar said: "I'm excited to move up to the Evo-Stik League and play for Skem, I always want to challenge myself and see how well I can do up the ladder."

Danny Boden added: "I feel excited and hungry to be joining a team like Skem who have been around for as long as I can remember, it's a great club."

Dave Powell is not letting the grass grow under his feet, Edgar and Boden are local lads and he is keen to build on the theme in inviting local players to join him at Skem, hopefully for pre-season training.

He is especially looking for players who have played at scholarship level for the many league clubs around the North West, but any promising lad will be considered.

Dave requests that the prospective players contact him via e-mail on davmar@btconnect.com.

Burscough this week announced an offer for season ticket holders or potential ones when they said that they presently have an early bird option between June and August of £100 for Adults or £70 Concessions, you are requested to contact Secretary Steve Halliwell on Stephen.halliwell966@btinternet.com

Kevin Edgar

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Road to Russia

In reaching Russia 2018, by defeating Slovenia at Wembley in their penultimate Group F match, England sealed their spot at their sixth consecutive FIFA World Cup - matching their previous record set between 1950 and 1970.

England qualified with ease after they topped their group and emerged undefeated with eight wins from their ten games. They finished with 26 points – eight ahead of nearest rival Slovakia.

Who England will face in Russia:

Group G:

Belgium, Panama, Tunisia, England

Last December's draw put England in Group G with Belgium, Tunisia and Panama. Here the Champion takes a look at the opposition.

England will view Belgium as being their greatest challenge in topping the group, with Roberto Martinez's squad having some of the biggest names in the tournament.

Gareth Southgate's men will be well aware of the talents possessed by the likes of Kevin De Bruyne, Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku, which will make for a mouthwatering clash when the two sides meet.

Panama are a hard-working but beatable team, with an experienced leader in manager Hernan Dario Gomez, who has coached Colombia at four World Cups.

Meanwhile, Tunisia topped their qualifying group to reach Russia and have plenty of unpredictable attacking flair which England must find a way to contain.

Tournament Favourites

Germany

Reigning World Cup holders and FIFA Confederations Cup winners, Germany travel to Russia in a bid to become the first team to retain the title since Brazil in 1962. The defending champions will be gunning for their fifth World Cup and under Joachim Low they have a side which everyone will want to avoid in the knock-out stages.

Argentina

Will this be Lionel Messi's last chance to win a World Cup? The 30-year-old, considered one of football's greatest ever players, will be desperate to win a major honour with his country having already become a club legend with Barcelona.

Argentina finished third in the CONMEBOL standings for Russia 2018 qualifying, reaching the tournament on the final matchday with a 3-1 win in Ecuador and boast exciting attacking talents with the likes of Sergio Aguero and Ángel Di María.

Brazil

The most successful team in World Cup history with five trophies, Brazil went unbeaten in their final 17 World Cup qualifiers (only losing the opening game to Chile) to finish ten points clear of second-placed Uruguay. The big question will be the availability of Neymar, who Brazil are hopeful will make the World Cup, and much will depend on if he is fit. Manager Tite admits his side are still haunted by their 2014 World Cup humiliation at the hands of Germany, saying "the 7-1 defeat from the World Cup is like a ghost".

France

France have won the World Cup once, when they hosted it in 1998. They have a talented crop of players, including three of the five most expensive footballers in history, but there are question marks about how to turn these stars into a team. They've got the players but can boss Didier Deschamps work out his best starting team? They have an unbelievably talented squad, with the likes of Paul Pogba, Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele, Antoine Griezmann, Thomas Lemar and Olivier Giroud.

England

Okay, so maybe England aren't exactly favourites, but it's definitely worth taking a look at their chances anyway.

If they can beat Panama and Tunisia in their opening two games, six points will probably be enough to secure their passage into the knock-out stages, and that's without playing Belgium in their final group game.

Pessimistic fans will highlight England's weakness in defence. Gareth Southgate has a squad without an obvious first choice goalkeeper and question marks continue to remain over the central defenders.

However, with attacking talents like Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and Dele Alli, there is cause for optimism that England can go far in this tournament.

Here's how to follow England on the telly!

The good news is that we are all guaranteed at least three England matches to enjoy during the World Cup in the group stages.

Even better news for most fans, is that the three games are unlikely to interfere with work, with two matches kicking off at 7pm and the third on a Sunday afternoon.

It means fans won't have to resort to a 4am alarm clock or 'pulling a sickie' in order to follow the Three Lions this summer!

BBC and ITV will be sharing the broadcast rights to this summer's tournament and we've included the full schedule of England's three games here:

MON JUNE 18:
Tunisia v England (Group G)
Volgograd - 7pm - BBC

SUN JUNE 24:
England v Panama (Group G)
Nizhny Novgorod - 1pm - BBC

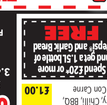
THU JUNE 28:
England v Belgium (Group G)
Kaliningrad - 7pm - ITV

Young Players to Watch Out For

Written by Tom Martin

A World Cup can provide young players with a platform to showcase their talents to the watching millions, and one kick of a ball can elevate them to national hero status.

Here, we take a look at five of the most exciting young talents, who could steal the show this summer.



Timo Werner

Nationality: **German**
Club: **RB Leipzig**
Age: **21**

Werner only made his senior debut for his country last year, but by this time he was already known across Germany.

Having become the youngest player to ever appear and score for Stuttgart, he made a move to the ambitious RB Leipzig in 2016.

He went on to become the youngest player to ever reach 100 and150 Bundesliga appearances, as well as being the youngest player to score two goals in a top-flight match in Germany.

Last year, he helped Germany claim the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup when his return of three goals earned him the tournament's Golden Boot award.

He has already been linked with a big money transfer to Liverpool, and a successful World Cup could see even more teams interested in signing him.

Marcus Rashford

Nationality: **English**
Club: **Manchester United**
Age: **20**

We couldn't not include an England player in the list, and although it seems like Rashford has been around for years, it's worth reminding ourselves that he's still only 20.

Perhaps a reason why fans feel he's older than this is due to the experience gained already in his short career. Rashford has nearly 80 appearances for Manchester United and played for England in the Euro 2016 tournament. The forward scored on his international debut in May 2016, becoming the youngest English player to score in his first senior international match.

Marco Asensio

Nationality: **Spanish**
Club: **Real Madrid**
Age: **22**

You must be a special player if you are keeping Gareth Bale out of the Real Madrid team. And that's exactly what Spanish sensation Asensio has been doing this season after taking La Liga by storm after making his first appearance for the Galacticos in 2016. Asensio has been a key performer for Spain at the youth levels, including a stellar showing at last summer's European Under 21 Championship. He's yet to score for the senior side, but he'll be a dangerous impact player in Russia.

Hirving Lozano

Nationality: **Mexican**
Club: **PSV Eindhoven**
Age: **22**

When we think of Mexican footballers, we immediately think of their flair players such as Javier Hernandez and Giovani dos Santos, but now we can add 22-year-old Lozano to that list. His style of play speaks for itself. He's not afraid to run at defences and take his man on and the youngster is sure to do damage in Russia. A winger who can shoot off both feet, he will give defenders a lot to think about this summer. Lozano received his first senior call-up to the national team in February 2016 and has gone on to score seven goals in 25 appearances.

Gabriel Jesus

Nationality: **Brazilian**
Club: **Manchester City**
Age: **20**

Although Jesus' season with the Premier League champions has been affected through injury, he will still be one of the most feared strikers at this summer's World Cup. The 20-year-old can line up anywhere across the attack, and usually keeps Liverpool's Roberto Firmino on the bench. His combination of pace, technical quality, finishing and world-class movement will frighten any defence.

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Cheese & Tomato Pie £2.20
Cheese & Onion Pie £2.20
Steak & Onion Pie £2.20
Steak & Kidney Pie £2.20
Steak Pie £2.20
Chicken & Mushroom Pie £2.20
Chicken Curry £2.20
Chicken & Chips £2.20
Sausage & Chips £2.20
Sausage & Egg £2.20
Chips & Curry £2.20
Chips & Gravy £2.20
Chips & Mushroom £2.20
Chips & Onion £2.20
Chips & Tomato Sauce £2.20
Sausage & Chips £2.20
2 Fish Fingers & Chips £2.20
4 Chicken Nuggets & Chips £2.20
Chicken Pakoras & Chips £2.20
Sausage Dinner £2.20
Cheese & Onion Pie £2.20
Steak & Kidney Pie £2.20
Steak Pie £2.20
Chicken & Mushroom Pie £2.20
Chicken Curry and Rice £2.20
Sausage & Egg £2.20
Chicken & Chips £2.20
Sausage & Chips

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GROUP A
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Egypt
Uruguay

GROUP B
Portugal
Spain
Morocco
IR Iran

GROUP C
France
Australia
Peru
Denmark

GROUP D
Argentina
Iceland
Croatia
Nigeria

GROUP A

14/6	16.00	Russia - Saudi Arabia	Luzhniki Stadium
15/6	13.00	Egypt - Uruguay	Ekaterinburg Arena
19/6	19.00	Russia - Egypt	St Petersburg Stadium
20/6	16.00	Uruguay - Saudi Arabia	Rostov Arena
25/6	15.00	Uruguay - Russia	Samara Arena
25/6	15.00	Saudi Arabia - Egypt	Volgograd Arena

GROUP B

15/6	16.00	Morocco - IR Iran	St Petersburg Stadium
15/6	19.00	Portugal - Spain	Fisht Stadium
20/6	13.00	Portugal - Morocco	Luzhniki Stadium
20/6	19.00	IR Iran - Spain	Kazan Arena
25/6	19.00	IR Iran - Portugal	Mordovia Arena
25/6	15.00	Spain - Morocco	Kaliningrad Stadium

GROUP C

16/6	11.00	France - Australia	Kazan Arena
16/6	17.00	Peru - Denmark	Mordovia Arena
21/6	13.00	Denmark - Australia	Samara Arena
21/6	16.00	France - Peru	Ekaterinburg Arena
26/6	15.00	Denmark - France	Luzhniki Stadium
26/6	15.00	Australia - Peru	Fisht Stadium

GROUP D

16/6	14.00	Argentina - Iceland	Spartak Stadium
16/6	20.00	Croatia - Nigeria	Kaliningrad Stadium
21/6	19.00	Argentina - Croatia	Nizhny Novgorod
22/6	16.00	Nigeria - Iceland	Volgograd Arena
26/6	19.00	Nigeria - Argentina	St Petersburg Stadium
26/6	19.00	Iceland - Croatia	Rostov Arena

ROUND OF 16

Match 49	Match 50	Match 51	Match 52
30 June 15.00	30 June 19.00	1 July 15.00	1 July 19.00
1C	1A	1B	1D
2D	2B	2A	2C
Match 53	**Match 54**	**Match 55**	**Match 56**
2 July 15.00	2 July 19.00	3 July 15.00	3 July 19.00
1E	1G	1F	1H
2F	2H	2E	2G

QUARTER FINALS

Match 57	Match 58	Match 59	Match 60
6 July 15.00	6 July 19.00	7 July 15.00	7 July 19.00
W49	W53	W55	W51
W50	W54	W56	W52

SEMI FINALS

Match 61	Match 62	Match 63
10 July 19.00	11 July 19.00	14 July 15.00
W57	W59	L61
W58	W60	L62

3rd Place Play Off

THE FINAL

15 July 16.00
W61
W62

GROUP E

17/6	13.00	Costa Rica - Serbia	Samara Arena
17/6	19.00	Brazil - Switzerland	Rostov Arena
22/6	13.00	Brazil - Costa Rica	St Petersburg Stadium
22/6	19.00	Serbia - Switzerland	Kaliningrad Stadium
27/6	19.00	Serbia - Brazil	Spartak Stadium
27/6	19.00	Switzerland - Costa Rica	Nizhny Novgorod

GROUP F

17/6	16.00	Germany - Mexico	Luzhniki Stadium
18/6	13.00	Sweden - Korea Rep	Nizhny Novgorod
23/6	16.00	Korea Rep - Mexico	Rostov Arena
23/6	19.00	Germany - Sweden	Fisht Stadium
27/6	15.00	Mexico - Sweden	Ekaterinburg Arena
27/6	15.00	Korea Rep - Germany	Kazan Arena

GROUP G

18/6	16.00	Belgium - Panama	Fisht Stadium
18/6	19.00	Tunisia - England	Volgograd Arena
23/6	13.00	Belgium - Tunisia	Spartak Stadium
24/6	13.00	England - Panama	Nizhny Novgorod
28/6	19.00	Panama - Tunisia	Mordovia Arena
28/6	19.00	England - Belgium	Kaliningrad Stadium

GROUP H

19/6	13.00	Colombia - Japan	Mordovia Arena
19/6	16.00	Poland - Senegal	Spartak Stadium
24/6	16.00	Japan - Senegal	Ekaterinburg Arena
24/6	19.00	Poland - Colombia	Kazan Arena
28/6	15.00	Japan - Poland	Volgograd Arena
28/6	15.00	Senegal - Colombia	Samara Arena

GROUP E
Brazil
Switzerland
Costa Rica
Serbia

GROUP F
Germany
Mexico
Sweden
Korea Republic

GROUP G
Belgium
Panama
Tunisia
England

GROUP H
Poland
Senegal
Colombia
Japan

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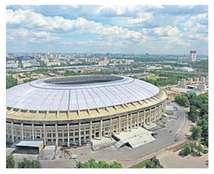

Luzhniki Stadium, the main stadium for Russia 2018 was originally built to host the first nationwide summer Spartakiad in 1956. Since then, Luzhniki Stadium has hosted a multitude of major sporting and cultural events, including the 1980 Summer Olympics, world championships in ice hockey, athletics and rugby and concerts featuring some of the world's greatest musicians. Throughout this period, however, football has played a special role, with the stadium having hosted more than 3,000 matches.

Kaliningrad Stadium was built for Russia 2018 on Oktyabrsky Island, right in the heart of Kaliningrad. The selection of Kaliningrad as a host city has prompted the local authorities to develop the island, which for many centuries has been a wilderness, left largely untouched. After the 2018 World Cup, a new residential development will be built around the stadium, with parks, quays and embankments alongside the Pregola river.

Volgograd Arena was built on the site of the Central stadium, at the foot of the Mamayev Kurgan war memorial. The location of the previous stadium is a Mecca for local football supporters, with the more seasoned among them able to remember European victory over Manchester United and domestic battles with Spartak Moscow.

Ekaterinburg Arena is home to FC Ural, the stadium was built in 1953. Since then, it has been refurbished on a number of occasions. The last of these refits has been made for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™. On each occasion, however, the stadium's historical façade remained untouched, as an architectural legacy. Architectural and decorative features typical of Soviet neo-Classicism were used lavishly in the construction of the stands.

Fisht Stadium was built for the Winter Olympics in February 2014, and hosted the opening and closing ceremonies. The stadium has been reconstructed for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ and was re-opened in 2017, where the venue hosted FIFA Confederations Cup matches.

Kazan Arena was built in preparation for the Summer World University Games in 2013, when it hosted the opening and closing ceremonies. A football pitch was installed once the games were over. The stadium hosted its first match in August 2013, when Rubin Kazan drew 1:1 with Lokomotiv Moscow, and also served as a FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 venue.

Nizhny Novgorod Stadium is being built in one of the city's most picturesque locations, at the confluence of the Volga and Oka rivers, near the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. The area offers a wonderful view of the Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin, situated on the other side of the Oka.

Samara Arena will be built in the Radiotsentr district. Under current plans, the stadium will be surrounded by a residential development and good-quality infrastructure. Stadium construction officially started on 21 July 2014.

Rostov Arena is situated on the left bank of the Don River. Buoyed by its selection as a host city, Rostov-on-Don will be able to expand in size by developing its left bank, where the local tourism facilities and restaurants have traditionally attracted locals and visitors alike.

Spartak Stadium: Spartak Moscow, the "people's team", is one of Russia's most popular football clubs. And yet, ever since it was founded in 1922, it has had to make do without its own stadium. The club has played home games at Moscow's Dynamo, Luzhniki and Lokomotiv stadiums, at the Khimki Arena just outside Moscow and even in Ekaterinburg.

Saint Petersburg Stadium is built on the site of the Kirov Stadium on Krestovsky Island, which, in its day, was one of the country's largest stadiums, with a capacity of 110,000. The tender to build Saint Petersburg Stadium was won by the renowned Japanese architect Kisho Kurosawa. The stadium hosted the Opening Match and Final of the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup.

Work on **Mordovia Arena** began in 2010, the 1000th anniversary of the unification of the Mordovian people with Russia's other ethnic groups. The arena is located in the centre of the city, on the bank of the Insar river.

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